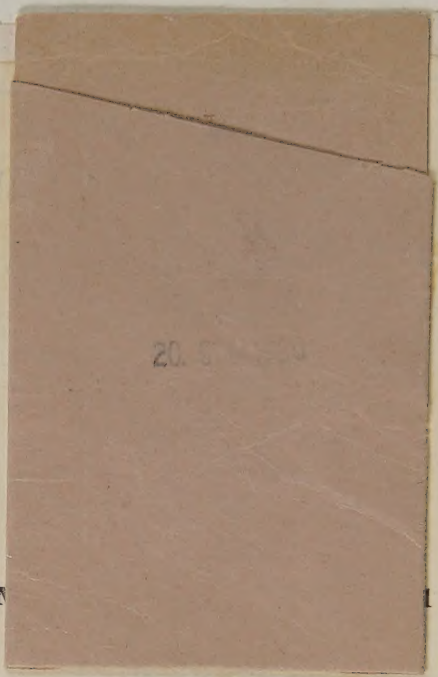

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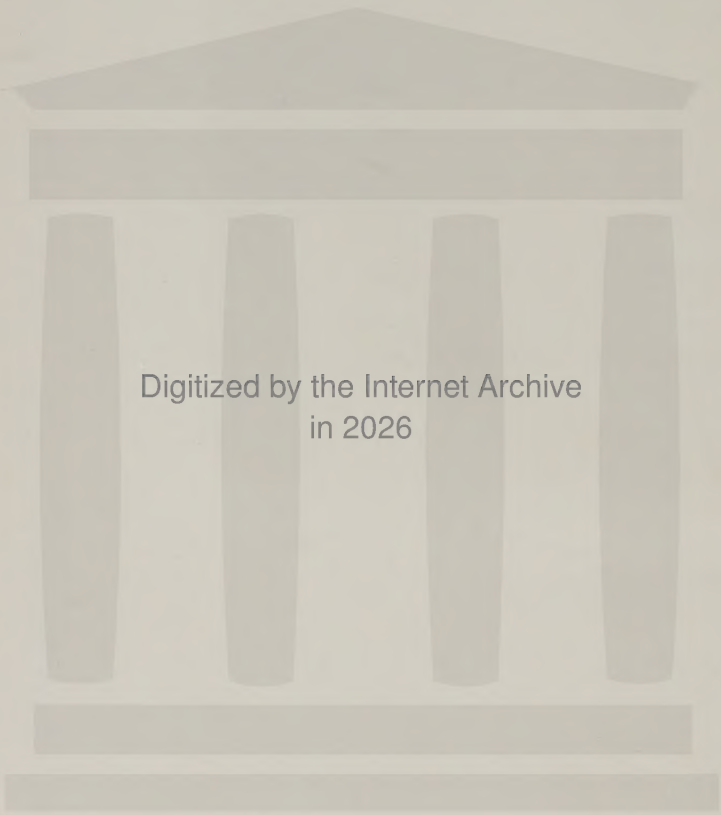
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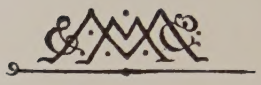
THE CORRESPONDENCE OF KING GEORGE THE THIRD

FROM 1760 TO DECEMBER 1783



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THE CORRESPONDENCE OF KING GEORGE THE THIRD

FROM 1760 TO DECEMBER 1783

PRINTED FROM THE ORIGINAL PAPERS
IN THE ROYAL ARCHIVES AT WINDSOR CASTLE,
ARRANGED AND EDITED

BY

THE HON. SIR JOHN FORTESCUE
LL.D., D.LITT.

IN SIX VOLUMES

VOL. V

1780–April 1782

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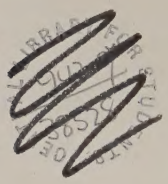

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INTRODUCTION

The present volume, opening with the year 1780, continues the story of the King's negotiations, conducted through Thurlow, for the strengthening of the Government (2916, 2917). The Duke of Grafton was sounded, but apparently with no great effect (2946, 2949). Meanwhile there were secessions of lesser magnates from the Court party (2940); and the King's correspondence with Lord North shows great impatience with the proposals for public economy in the Commons, the most notable of which was Burke's speech of the 11th February on economical reform. Nor is criticism wanting of North's tactics and of his tendency to lose heart (2945, 2954). On the 6th of March, North brought forward his budget, much to the King's satisfaction (2959, 2960), and pushed his taxes through the House with little opposition (2970, 2971). But though Burke's economical proposals were gently shoved aside, Dunning, on the 6th of April, carried by a majority of eighteen his famous motion, "That the influence of the Crown has increased, is increasing, and ought to be diminished". North, much shaken, at once sent in to the King his resignation (2986). The King, accustomed to these periodic but not (as it seems) very sincere resignations on the part of North, declined to take it very seriously, and pointed out that the result of the division was mainly accidental—which it actually seems to have been. "It cannot be the wish of the majority

to overturn the Constitution", he commented. "Factious leaders and ruined men wish it, but the bulk of the nation cannot see it in that light" (2986, 2987, 2991). With this nasty hit at Fox the King dismissed the incident, and was presently reassured by the rejection of Mr. Crewe's bill to disable revenue-officers from voting at elections (2992).

Meanwhile North had held an interview with Fox at the Opera House, when it appears that Fox had talked big and that North had confessed to him his inclination to retire. This Jenkinson, who reported the matter to the King, considered to be a mistake. He judged that the Opposition wanted to treat but for some reason was afraid to go on, and that this was the reason why, upon pretext of the Speaker's illness, they had consented to a long adjournment of the House. He pressed that North should communicate the story of this interview to all of his colleagues, and that meanwhile the King should be "very careful of the conversations that he held with him" (2993). In this same letter Jenkinson expresses strong doubts whether North really wished to retire at all, and he was probably right. A letter from John Robinson to Jenkinson, forwarded by the latter to the King (2995, 2996), gives a few more details of the transaction and of the intrigues of the Speaker, Sir Fletcher Norton. This gentleman, having taken an active part against Government on Dunning's motion, was not now in good odour at Court; and the King boldly accounted for his illness as a mere pretext to allow the Opposition to go to Newmarket (2994). North finally told the King all about his interview with Fox, but declined as a matter of honour to communicate it to any one else (2997). And there this incident, symptomatic of the extreme distrust which pervaded all parties and all factions, seems to have ended.

Sir Fletcher Norton, however, was honestly bent upon resigning the Speakership, though he took the chair on the day when Dunning brought forward the resolutions which were to give effect to his success of the 6th of April (3004, 3005). The said resolutions were rejected by substantial majorities; the Opposition fairly screamed with rage; the King reviewed the result with quiet satisfaction, and Lord North went down with an attack of gout (3006, 3008–3010). For this reason he forgot to apprise the King that the Duke of Northumberland had bought two boroughs in Cornwall, a matter which should have been reported at once (3013). During the ensuing days all went well in the House of Commons; and the King was much cheered (3014–3019), not only by this but by a premature report, which turned out to be true, of the capture of Charleston, which, as a matter of fact, surrendered to Sir Henry Clinton on the 9th of May. He had high hopes that American resistance would presently collapse, which indeed seemed at this time very probable, and he had given up, probably with shrewd and correct judgement, all hopes of conciliation as illusory (3019).

North now again, on the 18th of May, pressed his resignation on the King on the ground of ill-health (3026). The King once more declined to accept it, and Jenkinson opined that a little soothing would soon set matters right (3027, 3028). Business continued to go smoothly through the House of Commons to the end of May in spite of all obstruction (3033, 3035); and then for a week the papers are occupied wholly with the Gordon Riots. There is to this day some mystery about this extraordinary outbreak. That it was spontaneous is not to be believed. That the ridiculous Lord George Gordon could have organised it is equally incredible. It must have been carefully prepared, and, to use the modern

phrase, financed by some person or persons, apparently with revolutionary designs, though possibly to show that the King, whom the Opposition professed to regard as another James II., was a Papist. There is nothing to throw light on the subject in these papers except the opinion of Lord Stormont (3054) that it was "a deep laid revolt, and that the ringleaders at least act with deliberate rage and upon a fixed determined plan"; but his judgement may have been a little distorted by the destruction of his father's house. The chief reason for the long duration of the riot was the long-standing jealousy of the Army manifested for generations by the Commons whenever the military were called upon—as in the absence of any constabulary they were inevitably called upon—to act as police. The scum of every great city requires to be shot down from time to time, and that of London in 1780 needed it very sorely. That the violent language of the Opposition in Parliament during many years had its share in exciting disorder can hardly be questioned. It was actually on the 2nd of June, when the mob threatened the House of Lords, that the Duke of Richmond brought forward a motion for annual parliaments and an unrestricted suffrage. Of the King's leading part in quelling the riots there is no sign except a few chance words (3061) in these papers.

By mid-June all was quiet; and the little arrangement whereby Chief Justice de Grey resigned his office in return for a peerage and gave place to Wedderburn, created Lord Loughborough, was quietly accomplished (3005, 3058, 3059, 3062). At the same time the Duke of Grafton definitely declined to take any place in a remodelled Ministry (3060). Jenkinson further informed the King that North was taking no step to meet the overtures of the Opposition—apparently those made by Fox—and had not the slightest intention

of parting "with the smallest degree of power" (3080). Within a day or two it appeared, however, that North was negotiating with a section of the Opposition which was prepared to go on with the American War—Shelburne, apparently, the most important member of it—upon the understanding that North should remain at the head of the Treasury (3092). The King laid down his conditions, stipulating that those who had brought forward violent motions while in Opposition should abjure them on taking office. "No man of sense", he said, "can pretend to defend Government and support the measures he employed to overthrow it." He was particularly bitter against the Duke of Richmond, but was quite content that Fox should hold any lucrative, though not ministerial, office. "He never having had any principle can certainly act as his interest may guide him." The King also was very reluctant to part with Sandwich, whom he considered to be an extremely able administrator at the Admiralty (3099).

North formulated the King's letter in his own way (3100, 3101), and in September put forward some suggested changes in minor offices (3128, 3129); but meanwhile grave affairs in other departments were claiming attention. A rupture with Holland, long threatening, seemed to be on the point of turning to open war (3108). There appeared to be a prospect of peace with France (3111, 3113), though as yet vague and unsatisfactory (3138, 3139), and involving the unacceptable proposition of American Independence. Above all there was great activity in directing the movements of the fleets, with the unpleasant incident that Vice-Admiral Barrington, an excellent officer but a Whig, was more anxious to secure the appointment of Keppel to a high command than to obey the orders of the Admiralty and accept high command himself (3030, 3125, 3126). Sir Henry

Clinton's dispatches from America, despite of many successes, were gloomy; but the King declined to be discouraged, and was confident that England could outstay her enemies if she would only cling to what she still held of America and do all possible damage to other foes at sea (3155). Then at the end of October, with the prospect of another session before him North again resigned, with the same result as on previous occasions (3164, 3165), his weakness being ascribed to his health (3175). In November appears the first sign of proffered mediation by Russia and Austria (3180, 3188), which was cautiously but not unfavourably regarded (3202); and simultaneously there comes to light a project for an expedition against the Spanish Colonies on the Rio de la Plata, which was presently diverted against the Dutch East Indies (3190, 3223). War against Holland was finally declared on the 20th of December, and at the prospect North, on the 17th, again tendered his resignation (3206). The King answered, pointing out that Holland and not England was to blame, that France was certainly in great financial embarrassment, and that he would not accept American Independence as the price of peace with her (3207). And so the year came to an end, leaving the chances of the contest pretty evenly poised in the balance.

One of the first acts of the New Year 1781 was to hint to Russia that by favouring England against France she might gain the island of Minorca. The object was, if possible, to disperse "the Northern storm"; but the longed-for mediation seemed not to be taking a favourable course (3233, 3237–3239), and the attitude of Russia was doubtful (3246). Moreover, Lord Camden did his utmost to defeat the project by pronouncing in the House of Lords that, in consequence of the war with Holland, Russia was bound in honour to take up arms against us

(3255). The course of the negotiations may be traced under the headings of Austria and Russia in the index. Meanwhile good news came from the West Indies of the capture of St. Eustatia with immense booty; and Washington himself wrote despairingly in April, 1781, "We are at the end of our tether". The accounts from the Netherlands revealed the notorious weakness of the Dutch Republic (3316). The Opposition, it is true, continued to be as malignant as possible in Parliament (3325, 3329, 3357), and matters were not going well with the British arms, though nothing appears in these papers, in Carolina. Still, French finance seemed to be going from bad to worse in May (3342); and the American, Silas Deane, appeared to be working cordially for a reconciliation with the Colonies, though, as the King judged, too transparently so (3373, 3374, 3387). Early in August came news of the severe but indecisive action with the Dutch fleet off the Dogger Bank (3388), and a little later it became evident that Dutch trading vessels would save themselves by sailing under the Prussian flag—the result of Prussia's accession to the Northern League (3392). Lord Sandwich's letters bear witness to the feverish activity of the Admiralty, and Lord Stormont's to equal industry at the Foreign Office; and in the midst of this grave business the King was distracted by an escapade of his eldest son with a woman (3396), and by a piece of self-advertisement (which gave grave anxiety to the Cabinet) on the part of that foolish mountebank, Lord George Gordon (3408–3412, 3414–3416). In October came a false alarm of an attack on Jamaica (3427–3430, 3433); on the 1st of November arrangements were projected for the relief of Minorca, which had been under siege since August (3438); and on the 3rd the King reviewed the latest news from America with calmness and hope (3439). But already on the 19th of October Cornwallis had surrendered at Yorktown,

and the balance of chances, so delicately poised, had fallen on the side of the Americans.

The news reached England on the 25th of November, and was announced to Parliament in the King's Speech. The address was carried by a respectable majority, and the King still hoped that a good end might be made to the war (3449, 3450). The City of London, which had not shown itself to advantage in the Gordon Riots, seized the opportunity of the disaster to make itself unpleasant (3460, 3461, 3463), and was gently put in its place (3465). The Cabinet decided to send no fresh troops to America (3462); and, though the King agreed as to the impossibility of further important operations in that quarter, he saw no advantage in advertising the fact (3466). There were stormy dissensions in the Cabinet at this time, which, however, were calmed down (3475). The appointment of a new Commander-in-Chief in America was imperative, and, though all seem to have agreed that Sir Guy Carleton was the man for the place, it was certain that he would not accept it while Germain remained in charge of his department (3468–3478). North meanwhile seems to have been despondent and irresolute upon this and all other questions to a degree which tried the King's patience (3483–3485, 3497–3502). The matter was long drawn out (3507, 3508, 3511), owing to the difficulty of finding anyone to replace Germain. Jenkinson frankly admitted that he could not bear with North's vacillations (3504), and North was for bringing forward Henry Dundas, the Lord Advocate, as a useful ally in the House of Commons, though the King was not disposed to pay too dearly for Dundas's services. Ultimately, to the King's great gratification, Welbore Ellis accepted Germain's place (3516); Lord George was created a peer, and so the difficulty was adjusted.

It was now February, 1782. Parliament had met,

and on the 25th North, after settling the business of a new loan (3531), heard with dismay of a motion to be proposed by General Conway on American affairs (3533). The King himself was not sanguine as to the result in the reigning temper of the House, and on the 28th Conway carried by a majority of nineteen a motion to the effect that it was inexpedient and improper to prosecute the American War (3537). North drew the conclusion that the House had "withdrawn its confidence from him". The King made frantic struggles to patch up a new Administration, on the basis that so much of America as was still occupied should be retained, together with as many provinces as could be gained by separate negotiation (3537) England still held the two main gates of the country at New York and Quebec, so that really her military position was very strong. Conway followed up his first motion by one still stronger in the same sense, which was passed without a division (3539); and immediately afterwards came the bad news that St. Kitts had been surrendered to the French by the treachery of the planters (3540). Thurlow meanwhile undertook the negotiations for forming a new Ministry, which may be traced through his letters and those of North and Jenkinson (3543–3546, 3551, 3553–3558). But things were still going ill in Parliament. "The rats were very bad" (3560). Rockingham declined to hear of taking office except upon the grant of four important concessions, and Fox was urgent in "driving him on" (3564, 3565). The King still revolted from surrender to the Whigs. They had been responsible for the Government of the Empire for fifty years before he came to the throne; it was they who had mismanaged the American problem at the outset and left it in 1770 insoluble except by force; and it was they, finally, who, far more than French fleets and armies, had heartened the Americans to resistance

and prolonged their chances of success. He knew that they accused him of conspiring against English liberty (3226)—a folly which he was far too shrewd to dream of —and also of being a Papist at heart, an accusation which he could afford to treat with contempt. It was not, perhaps, unnatural that he neither loved nor trusted them; and he would be embittered by the thought that the issue of the struggle (which was none of his making) had been, after all, a very, very close thing. In spite of North's urgent entreaties he was not inclined to give way (3566, 3567), and he went so far as to draft a message announcing his abdication to Parliament (3601). On the 20th of March North reported his resignation to the Commons. A week was spent in settling the final details upon his leaving office and the advent of the new Ministry, and on the 27th the King accepted an Administration of his enemies (3570–3590). The most interesting document connected with this period is the defence which Lord Sandwich prepared of his administration at the Admiralty (3510). Its account of strikes, timber-rings, and quarrels with piece-work gives it a very modern tone; and it is well worth reading. It is noteworthy that, with all their malignancy against Sandwich, the Whigs dared not impeach him.

The Whigs were not moderate in the hour of victory (3596), but the King soon made a friend of Shelburne, the ablest man in the new Ministry intellectually, though lacking the straightforward, open nature which was so endearing a characteristic of Fox. Both got to work at once with the business of negotiating a peace, while Keppel became equally active with the charge of the Admiralty. Before the new Ministry had been in office a fortnight there were signs of friction between Shelburne and Rockingham (3627, 3628), which the King endeavoured to adjust through Thurlow (3632, 3633, 3638, 3639). Shelburne

was very open with the King in the matter of the negotiations with America, so much so as to overcome the King's resolve to take no part in them (3613, 3631, 3635). Then came the business of economic changes in the King's establishment, which was gently softened by Shelburne for the King's acceptance (3645–3648), and was treated by the King in his own practical fashion (3648, 3660). Rockingham, however, seems, perhaps from mere stupidity, to have been a little obstructive in this affair (3677), and the King fell back upon Shelburne to adjust it (3665, 3690, 3692) before submitting his final opinions to Rockingham. He was a little suspicious that unpleasantness was still in store for him. A curious and unpleasant complication, so far as the King was concerned, was the belated presentation by Lord North of the Civil List accounts (3663, 3668), which called down severe censure from the King (3669), abject apology from North (3674, 3680, 3691), and only moderate forgiveness from His Majesty (3675). More will be seen of this business in later volumes.

Meanwhile Fox reported the progress of the Contractors and Revenue Officers Bill through the Commons, while Shelburne was occupied with the American negotiations, which may be traced in his letters and under the names, Franklin, Laurens and Oswald, in the index. In Nos. 3687, 3688, may be read the appointments of the rival emissaries to France—Oswald, Shelburne's, and Thomas Grenville, Fox's nominee; and in No. 3693 is seen the King's anxiety that Oswald should be kept in Paris to watch Grenville, though in no underhand fashion (3693, 3694).

There is an unpleasant sight of party vindictiveness in the recall of Rodney, which the King did not combat (3676, 3677), only hoping that "Keppel had a proper man in his eye to succeed him". As a matter of fact,

Keppel appointed the absolutely incompetent Admiral Pigot, though, as shall be seen, Rodney had time to win the battle of the Saints before Pigot's arrival. Another victim, pursued apparently by Fox, was Sir Hugh Palliser (3699); but this document is interesting chiefly for the light which it sheds, together with the King's answer (3700), upon the old procedure of the Cabinet. Both letters are worthy of careful perusal by Constitutional students. It may also be worth while to call attention to the King's letter to North after receipt of the news of Yorktown, wherein he claimed to have the advice of each individual Minister, as well as of the Cabinet as a whole (3449).

Taking the volume in its entirety, not the least striking point is the dearth of military intelligence. One would hardly know that military operations were going forward. On the contrary, the bulk of naval matter is proportionately enormous (*see Index*, Navy, Movement of the Fleets). It is, I think, a sound deduction that the King, at any rate, regarded the contest with France by sea as the really important matter; and no doubt he was right. The battle of the Saints, unfortunately for him, came six months too late; but it would not have been fought if St. Lucia had not been snapped up by the British fleet and army in 1778. To hold St. Lucia the military commander on the spot sacrificed, in spite of Germain's orders to the contrary, two or three more of the Windward Islands, and he was quite right. Of the Leeward Islands St. Kitts was lost by the treachery, as has been told, of the planters; and Jamaica, if attacked, would have gone the same way. The spirit in the West Indian Islands was as bad as it could be during this war. Minorca was also lost, after an heroic defence, and one or two small garrisons on the Mississippi. Gibraltar was held. The Empire suffered, as usual, from its dispersion,

and from the number of its vulnerable points, for which adequate garrisons could not be supplied. The idea of making over Minorca to Russia, as a reward for service to be rendered, was from a military and naval point of view a sound one. In spite of all blunders and mishaps, the work of the fleets and of the Admiralty as recorded in Sandwich's memorandum (3510) has probably not yet been fully appreciated.

For the rest, minor details of the King's art collection (*Index*, Cowper); of the establishments of his sons (*Index*, Adolphus, Edward, Frederick, George, William); of Windsor Forest (*Index*, Winkfield, Sandhurst), may be traced with the above guidance. Under the names of Hastings and Lennox also will be found the details of the quarrel between Lord Rawdon and the Duke of Richmond. Interesting details about Eton will be found under that heading, and about the King's distribution of ecclesiastical patronage under the heading George III. All cannot be included in an introduction, and, after all, the chief pleasure of an historical student is to discover things for himself.

J. W. F.

No. 2912—*Lord Barrington* (?) *to Lord Sandwich.*

[? 1780.]

My dear Lord—There will be in readiness to receive the troops in Moorfields four Justices and the 2 High Constables, tho' we don't know whether Mr Pell is in Town or not. Everything is quiet in Spital fields & in Moorfields, but it is apprehended by Mr Welch, that they may by small parties rendezvous in St. George's fields on the Surry side, therefore Ancram's Dragoons which are at Lambeth should be in readiness to intercept them, attended by a Middlesex and Surry Magistrate. We have a report that a body of Sailors are to join them in the Evening, the truth of which might be found out amongst some of your Friends in the City, and even be prevented by them. The Master Brickmakers have also been threatned that their Clamps shall be destroyed if they don't make their Men join with them, & this night being Saturday when the labouring Men receive their pay, it will be more dangerous than any other. Ever your's B.

No. 2913—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *Jan*: 2*d*: 1780.

Lord Sandwich takes the liberty to inform your Majesty that Sir Roger Burgoyne one of the Commissioners of the Victualling is dead.

Lord North has long since earnestly desired that upon his decease his son might succeed him; he is a young man of capacity & promises to make a better officer than his father, by attending closely to his duty.

Lord Sandwich will, if your Majesty approves of Mr. Montagu Burgoyne, order him to be included in the Patent that is now making out on account of the former vacancy.

No. 2914—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

BLACKHEATH *Jan*: 3*d*: 1780.

Since Ld. Sandwich troubled your Majesty about an hour ago, he has seen Captain Marshall of the Emerald, who brings the enclosed private letter from Captain Fielding. He says that no one was killed on either side, one of the Namur's shrowds was cut, and a shot came in at her stern window.

Three of the men of war & about 7 or 8 of the Merchant Ships are coming in with Captain Fielding; the two men of war that were destined to the West Indies pursued their course.

Captain Marshall contradicts what is mentioned in the paper sent this morning concerning the Serapis, which he says was a mistake, for that Paul Jones sailed in the Alliance.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2915—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *Jan. 4th.* 1780.

After the Dr^{ts} were sent to your Majesty yesterday, it struck me that it might be advisable to write a Letter to the Ministers mentioned in the Margin of the D^{rt} now submitted to your Majesty, to take the advantage of telling the story as it really is, and prevent the effect of these false Reports which our Enemies will no doubt circulate with great activity.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2916—*The King to* [*Lord Thurlow ?*]

Jany. 1780.

MY LORD—I should be sorry if You remained under any Anxiety, from an Idea of having mislead Me into wrong impressions to the disadvantage of anyone of my Subjects. When I have the misfortune at any time not thoroughly to conceive what You may represent to Me, You will do right to follow the method You have adopted on the present Occasion, and to act

with the same frankness and candour, which I shall always approve.

It was certainly agreed between Us, that You should sound the Persons with whom You conversed, only in Your own name, and I understood You had done so, though You had full power if You thought it right, to have done it in Mine; and when You told Me the Conversation You had with Lord Shelburne, particularly his remark *that it would be more gracious in Me to declare what openings I would make, that Opposition might judge whether their Sentiments could approve with Mine*, I confess I was fully persuaded, perhaps erroneously, that He sufficiently understood by what Authority You acted, though You did not speak in My Name; it was this induced Me to consent to Your informing Him, of the resolution Lord North had taken with respect to Himself, and I at the same time expressed my Expectations that He in return for this Advance on my part, should open Himself more fully. When I found by Your report of the 16th of last Month that this was not the case, I owne I felt all I expressed in my letter to You of the 18th as well as the Injustice of that Suspicion so frequently insinuated of my want of Confidence in My Ministers, now again conveyed by the Public declaration of Opposition, that those I am to employ will expect to have *all My Confidence*; when I think I know sufficiently the extent of my Duty in this respect, and have never been wanting in the discharge of it.

My conduct has I think been uniform through the whole course of these Transactions; I wished for a Coalition, and that You as my Chancellor, should be the Negociator of it. Not only Your Office, but Your Character, and Your acknowledged Firmness and Candour, pointed You out as a proper Person for this business. Soon after it was first proposed to You, You said as I understood, that You would not begin the Negociation, till Lord North had declared that He could not go on; Lord North at that time said He could go on; I know Your Sentiments and His did not coincide as to the Circumstances which were necessary to enable an Administration to go on, and the whole was explained to Me as stated in Your letter; but Lord North not declaring that He could not go on, I considered the Attempt to negociate to be for sometime at an end; in consequence of this Lord North recommended the Persons whom

He wished to have placed in the Great Offices then Vacant, and I consented to it; indeed it was necessary that two such Offices should be filled up at the Opening of the Session, if the Administration was to go on, even while we negociated.

I never thought myself at liberty to begin the Negociation again till the 1st of last Month, when Lord North expressed a desire that an Attempt should be made to form an Administration on a broader basis. I saw You on the 3d, told You what had passed, authorized You again to proceed, and returned to You my paper.

I have hitherto certainly refused to declare which of my present Ministers with a view to Coalition I was ready to part with, common prudence required that I should act with this reserve, till I knew whether those with whom I treated, were ready to consent to *any* Coalition; I see no reason why I was not to expect that even in this case they should explain themselves first. I condescended however so far, as to allow them to be informed that in order to attain the desirable end which I had in view, my first Minister had consented to relinquish his situation; after this concession it belongs to them to make the next Advance, and to explain what farther they mean by Coalition. You will however I am sure recollect that when we first discoursed on this business, I told You that if what related to Principles was settled, I should in other respects be reasonable; but I must add that as yet the answer as to Principles has been evasive, and that my mind is not enough given to nice distinctions, to admit that one of My Ministers only remaining, the proposition of joining part of my Ministers would be fulfilled.

I am still ready to authorize a Proposition for a Coalition to be made in My Name, whenever You and Lord North shall think that the State of my Affairs make such a Measure proper, and that from the Temper of any part of Opposition, there is reason to hope that it can be made with the least prospect of Success; but the Negociation must be founded on the principles laid down in my first Paper, and which You have so properly explained in Your letter, and I am more convinced than I have been yet, that in order to do any good, it must be a Coalition and not a total change of Government; from what You say in Your letter of the present want of Authority in the different branches of Government, I am sensible there is a want

of it; but Authority can never be restored by the meer change of one Party for another, it can only be resumed by a strong Government formed out of the Wise, the Virtuous, and Respectable of all Parties.

Endorsed by the King, "Drawn up as a note for the Chancellor's information, but He not having had an audience from the date of his letter to the beginning of Feb^{y} I do not mean as so much time has elapsed unless something new arises to deliver it." Feb. 6th 1780.

Two more copies in the King's handwriting.

No. 2917—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 299.

Queens House *Jany. 6th* 1780.

From the same desire of keeping Lord North exactly informed of every thing that has passed between Me and the Chancellor in his late negociation with Opposition, I transmit an exact Copy I have taken of a Paper he sent Me on the 26th of last month dated the day before, which Lord North will find is calculated to take off the Edge as much as he can of the letter I had wrote him of which a Copy is already in Lord North's hands; though not inclined to a paper War it was impossible for me to acquiesce to every circumstance as now stated; I have therefore prepared a note which I meant to put into the Chancellor's hands the first time I saw him as a more amicable mode of conveying my Sentiments than in the form of a letter; he is gone to Bath without mentioning that intention to Me; I shall therefore keep it till I next See him; but chuse to give a Copy of it to Lord North at this time as it concludes a transaction where my conscience fully approves of the Uniformity and fairness of my conduct, but I owne the vexation I have met with in the course of it has given me much uneasiness.

I also transmit a letter I received on Saturday from the Dowager Dutchess of Ancaster on the Subject of the Barony of Willoughby of Ersby, I am ready to gratify the family in this request whenever Lord North shall wish to have it put in execution.

No. 2918—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

BLACKHEATH *Jan.* 10*th* 1780.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to forward to your Majesty the letters recieved from Captain Clerke & the unfortunate Captain Cooke; the latter of whom your Majesty will observe was massacred by the Natives of a new discovered Island.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2919—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *Jan.* 10. 1780.

I trouble Your Majesty with a very voluminous and perhaps unnecessary Despatch to Sr. Joseph Yorke. But I thought it might be advisable to explain to Him fully the plan of conduct meant to be pursued and I have done it agreeably to what I understood to be Your Majesty's Intentions. The Business is, no doubt of great Magnitude & the Consequences may be very serious, but the whole was weighed before hand, and it seems to be of great Importance that the plan adopted should be steadily adhered to.

The Intelligence contained in the note that accompanies this may perhaps lead to some useful Discovery; as far as I could judge from the conversation of my Informer whom I never saw till this Morning He seems to be well intentioned and to deserve a good Degree of credit.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2920—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Jan*: 13*th*: 1780.

Lord Sandwich had the honour to send to your Majesty some intelligence recieved by the Kite Sloop; if true it is very important.

It appears by these letters that at the time of their being written, Don Cordova's fleet was not arrived at Cadiz, and

Captain Trollop of the Kite says that there was no Sea force now before Gibraltar but a few Xebeques & small vessels, Don Banelo's squadron being blown into Port.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2921.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

at Lord North's Jan. 13. 1780

Present

Ld. President
Ld. Privy Seal
Ld. Sandwich
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. G. Germain
Ld. North
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont

Agreed that the Consideration of Ireland be resumed at the next Meeting which is to be on Saturday the 22d. Instant.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2922—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Parlt. Street *Janr.* 13*th* 1780.

Since I paid my Duty to your Majesty, I have seen Mr. Robinson, & I learn from Him that Ld. Hilsborough has had a conversation with Mr. Beresford on his being Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant; This Mr. Beresford told Mr. Robinson which gave Him an opportunity of talking to Him upon it likewise; & in this conversation Mr. Beresford said, that if it was thought to be of use to your Majesty's Government, He was ready to be Secretary *under the present Lord Lieutenant* (though that would

have many Disagre'mens) or under any other; He dropd that He wished that His Relation Ld. Townshend was the Lord Lieutenant, as He had a Party already formd in that Kingdom & would certainly be able to do your Majesty's Busyness there. I thought it right to apprize your Majesty of all this, as I perceive that a great deal will come forward on this subject in the course of a few days: Mr. Robinson told me also that Mr. Beresford had a conversation with the Lord Chancellor before He went to Bath, & that He was of opinion that the Government of Ireland ought to be changed.

I think that Ld. Townshend would probably be able to do your Majesty's Busyness in that Country; but Appearances are certainly against the appointment of Him. There are reasons which make me incline to the putting of the Government of Ireland at present into the Hands of Lords Deputies.

1st The Difficulties of the present Times justifie a Change like this in the Government of that Country.

2d^{ly} It will be easier to find an English Nobleman, who is proper to be put at the Head of such a Commission than to find one that is qualified to exercise all the Powers of a Lord Lieutenant.

3dly It may be made the means of pledging two considerable Irish Families to the support of the Measures of English Government there; Lord Shannon & Lord Tyrone have shewn by their Attachment & Fidelity on a late occasion that they may be trusted. They will be more than a Match for all the Power of the Duke of Leinster & Mr. Conolly; & Mr. Beresford would be a more proper Secretary to such a Commission, than to any Lord Lieutenant except Lord Townshend.

4th^{ly} The removal of Lord Buckingham would in such case be less offensive to Him. It will be less offensive to be removed, because your Majesty thinks it right for reasons of State to change for the present the System of your Government than to be removed for the purpose of appointing in His place another Lord Lieutenant, the System continuing the same.

I hope your Majesty will excuse my presumption in submitting these Ideas to your Consideration.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

No. 2923—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Jan*: 14*th*: 1780

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty a letter from Captain Pasley of which he himself is the bearer, giving an account of a French Squadron cruizing off the Streights of Gibraltar. On the 6th of this month he fell in with a fleet of ships 15 leagues off Cape Finisterre, the weather was hazy but he counted nineteen sail; this in all probability was part of Sir George Rodneys Squadron.

Captain Pasley does not give much credit to the account he received from the Dutchman, tho' he says the man was very clear and positive.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2924—*The King to Lord Stormont.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE *Jany.* 16*th* 1780.

LORD STORMONT—Previous to the Death of Lord Suffolk the Attorney was promised that a Reversion should be made out in favour of his Nephew Sir James Erskine of the Office of Director of the Chancery in Scotland after the Demise of the present Possessor Mr. David Scott; all the last Winter it was postponed as I understood at the desire of the Attorney General, and by one neglect or other no step has been taken till this hour; the Attorney though now I believe inclined to act properly in Public begins to complain that this promise has as yet not been yet fulfilled; You will therefore take the proper steps for compleating this affair; I wanted Lord North to state this to You; but though it was settled with Your Predecessor he had a delicacy of speaking to You on the Subject and desired it might originate from Me; I am no friend in general to Reversions but You will see that this originated from not having gratified of the Attorney in his wish of getting the Office of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2925—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

PORTLAND PLACE *Sunday Jan.* 16 1780

$\frac{m}{15}$ *past Three* PM.

I have this Moment received Your Majesty's Commands and will obey them tomorrow. Whatever objections there maybe to Reversions, it is certainly every way Right that a Promise once given should be fulfilled.

No. 2926—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty a letter which he has just received from Mr. Robinson containing an account of this day's transactions in the City. The Corporation, as Lord North fear'd, has gone against us, but a subscription among the merchants is begun, which is likely to be very considerable, &, if assisted by the personal activity & exertions of the Friends of Government, may, in this vast Capital, & its populous neighbourhood, greatly contribute to recruit the army.

DOWNING STREET $\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* $\frac{\text{P.M.}}{11.}$ *Janr.* 16 [? 1780].

No. 2927—*Lord North to the King.*

SIR—I think myself obliged in justice to Mr. Crawford to explain to your Majesty a circumstance which has happen'd partly by my delay, & partly by his impatience ; He came to me some days ago, & having express'd his Brother's uneasiness at quitting the army, requested me to speak to your Majesty in his behalf that he might remain in the Guards during his mission to Munich, it being always understood that in case of Lieut: Col: Crawford's being order'd abroad, he would attend his Military duty ; Not knowing whether the request was a proper one to make, I determined to consult Lord Amherst before I mention'd the business to your Majesty, & did it accordingly on Friday last. His Lordship thought the request not objectionable, if Mr. Crawford would take care to find the proper guards in his

absence, that the regiment might not complain ; I know there would be no difficulty in that arrangement ; & resolved to speak to your Majesty on Wednesday next ; But on Saturday I learnt to my great surprize that Mr. Crawford impatient at not hearing from me, & thinking that I did not mean to keep my promise to him, made an agreement with Mr. Frazer to exchange with his nephew whose regiment was going to India. Lieut: Col: Crawford did not much approve what his brother was doing for him, but being very averse to quitting the army & thinking that I would not interfere in his behalf, consented to the arrangement made for him by his Brother : Supposing your Majesty might be surprized at the application, & being sensible that it proceeded in a great measure from my delay, I thought it right to state the whole matter to your Majesty that if any blame belongs to the proceeding I may take that share of it, that I deserve. I beg leave to subscribe myself, with the most dutiful attachment, Your Majesty's most faithfull and most obedient Subject & Servant NORTH

Jan: 17. 1780.

No. 2928—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *Jany.* 17*th* 1780.
$\frac{m}{30.}$ *pt.* 6. PM.

I was not in the least surprised on Friday when Lord Loudon came to propose the Exchange between Lieut. Col. Crauford of the 3d. Regt. of Foot Guards and the Nephew of Lieut. Gen. Fraser who is Lieut. Col. of Lord Macleods first Batalion now in the East Indies ; as the plan is undoubtedly a more advantageous for Lieut. Col. Crauford than going to Munich ; I made no Difficulty in consenting to this Arrangement as Lieut. Col. Crauford had signed a paper testifying that there was no money in the transaction, but that mutual convenience alone dictated the Parties.

I have this day Signed the Reversion in favour of Sir James Erskine ; Lord North may therefore notify it in the manner most agreable to him to the Attorney General.

No. 2929—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Jan.* 17. 1780.
$\frac{m}{40}$ *p two* PM.

As the Hints given in M. Triquettis Papers seem to me of considerable importance I propose sending them to Lord North the moment they come from Your Majesty and shall take the liberty of recommending them to his particular attention.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2930.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

at Ld. Amhersts Jan. 22. 1780

Present

Ld. Chancellor
Ld. President
Ld. Privy Seal
Ld. Sandwich
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. G. Germain
Ld. North
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont

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agreed that orders be sent to admiral Parker representing, that Information has been received that the French West India Islands within his Command are liable to an Impression from the British Force. and that it may be expedient for Him to make such a attack. That Notice should be sent to the Respective Governors of the Neutral Settlements, that all such French Islands or any of them upon which such attack shall be meditated are to be considerd as Invested, and that all Provisions and other Relief sent to any of them in that situation will be considerd as contraband and confiscated accordingly.

It having been discussed whether orders should be sent to

the Lord Lieut. to adjourn the Parlt. forthwith for three weeks it was resolved to wait 'till further Letters were recd from Him.

No. 2931—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Jan. 24th* 1780.
Three o'clock P.M.

I think it my Duty to inform your Majesty in this secret Manner that I understand that by the last Flanders Mail the Margrave of Anspach recd. a letter from His Minister at Berlin which says that the King of Prussia has had a Relapse and is certainly in a very dangerous way Mr. Elliot has recd. nothing new upon the Subject, but His Letters come by the Way of Holland.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2932—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Jan:* 27. 1780.

The Project of a Declaration here submitted to Your Majesty has just been read to your Confidential Servants and approved by them. If it has Your Majestys approbation, I propose to make it to Count Wilderen tomorrow.

No. 2933—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has been inform'd by Mr. Crawford that it has been lately settled that when Officers in the Guards being actually in America succeed to companies, they continue in America, & do not return as formerly to Europe, & that, in consequence of this regulation, It is not probable that His Brother's turn of service of America will come soon; Mr. Crawford related this to Lord North, after Lord North had related to him what his Majesty has said to Lord North upon the subject of Lt. Col: Crawford, & which Lord North thought himself at Liberty to do, & hopes he has not done anything which his Majesty will disapprove: Mr. Crawford had another reason for dwelling upon this subject with Lord North; He knows that his Brother is averse from the service in the East Indies, & is conscious that

the exchange proposed with Mr. McPherson has proceeded from his impatience & Lord North's delay. The truth is that Lieut: Col: Crawford is so high in the Guards, & forsees so little prospect of early advantage in India, that he is sorry for the bargain his brother has made which he did upon despairing of Lord North's applying to his Majesty that he might keep his situation in the army. His Majesty knows better than any body how far Mr. Crawford is well inform'd as to the rule in the Guards; Lord North hopes for his Majesty's forgiveness for troubling him again on this business but as this difficulty arose in some measure from his fault, he thinks it will be expected of him by the two Gentlemen concern'd.

Friday Jan: 28 [1780].

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2934—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Jan.* 31. 1780.
three o'clock P.M.

The Letters by the flanders Mail were decypherd too late to be sent to Your Majty. Yesterday. I detained the Messenger to day in hopes of finding something satisfactory in Mr. Eden's Letter. There is still another Letter from Him which is decyphering and will be sent to Yr. Majesty tomorrow.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2935—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

[? 1780.]

Your Majesty will see by Sr. J. Yorkes Dispatches that the Dutch Business must now be brought to an immediate crisis.

The Intention of hastening the communication of the Accession of the Republic to the Northern League is very insidious, and every step taken after this Declaration might be attributed to Resentment for it. To obviate this the best thing that has occurred to me and which I mean to propose to the Cabinet this evening is that orders should be sent instantly to Sr. Joseph Yorke to quit Holland without taking leave, repair to Antwerp and wait there for further orders & that

Count Wilderen should be informed in a friendly Manner of the orders sent to Your Majestys ambr. which will prevent Him Wilderen from attempting to make any Communication.

If this Idea meets with the approbation of Your Majestys Confidential Servants, is it in that case Your Pleasure that a Messenger be sent to Night with the above mentioned orders to Sr. Joseph Yorke.

I have just had a long conversation with M. Simolin who held the Language of a Minister very well intentioned. That held by his Court seems to be of a very doubtful Nature at least. There seem to Me to be strong Marks of Ct. Panins style in the Papers now laid before Your Majesty.

No. 2936—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Feb. 1st* 1780.

$\frac{m}{45}$ *p. one* PM.

Mr. Eden's second Letter seems to confirm Your Majesty's Conjectures. I am indeed afraid that the friendly Professions of Denmark will end in Nothing. If the Danish Ministers really had that Influence at Petersburgh which they pretend to have their Interposition there might be worth purchasing, but I much doubt of any Influence being sufficient to counteract the Intrigues of the King of Prussia especially when the object of those Intrigues is to keep Russia in that state of Inaction to which the Empress seems but too much inclined. Is it Your Majesty's pleasure that Ct. Maltzahn be admitted to an audience tomorrow.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2937—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Feb. 2d.* 1780.

As Sr. Robert Keith will naturally expect a Confidential and particular Answer to His Despatches by *Langun*, I have prepared the Drt. which is now submitted to your Majty. and if it should meet with Your approbation I propose with Yr Majesty's leave to send it by a Servant which Mr. Elliot will dispatch from

Brussels. This will be less observed than the sending a Messenger which might attract too much attention.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2938—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Feb* 3. 1780.
$\frac{m}{30}$ *p. four* P.M.

It makes me exceedingly happy to find that the Dispatch to Sr. R. Keith meets with Your Majesty's entire approbation. I think it will be proper to acquaint Him with what has been done to bring the Dutch to a Decision, as this Information will enable Him to remove any false Impression that France may endeavour to give of this Matter.

No. 2939.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

at Ld. Chancellors feb 5th 1780.

Present

Ld. Chancellor.
Ld. President.
Ld. Privy Seal.
Ld. Sandwich.
Ld. Hillsborough.
Ld. G. Germaine.
Ld. North.
Ld. Amherst.
Ld. Stormont.

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agreed that in the present Circumstances as represented in the Ld. Lieutenants Correspondence the most expedient Manner of laying an Embargo upon Provisions would be in pursuance of an adress from the H. of Commons in Ireland if such an adress shd be presented to Him.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2940—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 303.

QUEENS HOUSE *Feby.* 10*th* 1780.
$\frac{m}{37}$ *pt.* 5. P.M.

After Lord North had left St. James's Yesterday, Lord Pembroke came and resigned his Court Employment giving no other reason than that He could not Support Measures whilst One Man not in the House of Lords remained in Employment and explained this to relate to Lord George Germain; I cannot chuse the Lieutenancy of Wiltshire should be in the hands of Opposition; I therefore think without loss of time Lord North should Offer it to Lord Aylesbury, and that a Civil Communication should be made to the D. of Marlborough that regard to him had alone made Me not remove his Brother in Law; but He having chose to resign I could not think it right to have the Lieutenancy in his hands.

Lord Stormont brought Me a letter I did not expect from the D. of Chandos resigning the Lieutenancy of Hampshire, alledging that the favours of the County were put into other hands; which I am told means his not having got the Government of the Isle of Wight. I have since heard that He is quite ruined and Means to retire to Florence; if this is true; He will certainly not be prevailed upon to keep the Lieutenancy and Lord North must See what Peer can Succeed Him; the only one that has occurred to Me is Lord Rivers, I do not mean by this to exclude one of more weight if such should occurr.

No. 2941—*Lord North to the King.*

[11 *February,* 1780.]

Lord North has received his Majesty's commands respecting the Lieutenancies of Wiltshire & Hampshire; He was extremely surprized at hearing of the Duke of Chandos's letter to Lord Stormont especially as He thought he had paid all attention possible to the Duke; & that the Government had been given away with his Grace's knowledge and approbation.

Upon the application from the Gentlemen of the Isle of Wight

in behalf of Mr. Holmes, Lord North told them that he must wait some time before he could give them an answer, as he had not heard of the intentions of the Duke of Chandos.

Mr. Robinson & Lord North afterwards received letters from Sir Richard Worsley, from which the inclosed passages are extracted.

The substance of these extracts were confirm'd verbally by Sir Richard Worsley.

Lord North heard nothing from the Duke of Chandos during a whole fortnight that elapsed between the death of Mr. Stanley & the appointment of Sr. Richd. Worsley.

From His Grace's silence connected with Sr. Richard Worsley's letters, Lord North had not the least doubt of the Duke's having waved his pretensions.

Lord North has since written to the Duke that, if he has been misrepresented, matters shall be set right, & settled to his satisfaction, but he believes the Duke will not say he has been misrepresented, as Sir Richard Worsley has shewn to Mr. Robinson the Duke's letter which, by Mr. Robinson's account, entirely justifies the former assertions of Sr. Richard.

Lord North would be sorry if he could be accused of doing anything which could give a just cause of complaient to the Duke of Chandos, but, as he thinks himself perfectly innocent on that head, He was much surprized at hearing of his letter to Lord Stormont.

Friday morng.

Enclosure.

Extract of a Letter from Sir Richard Worsley dated Appuldurcombe Park Jan: 22d: 1780. to Mr. Robinson.

"I must trouble You to acquaint Lord North that the Duke of Chandos wrote to me from Avington dated January 18. 1780 saying that He should not apply for the Government of the Isle of Wight, or Interfere in the Business."

Extract of a Letter from Sir Richd. Worsley dated Appuldurcombe Park Jan. 27. 1780 to Lord North.

"You must allow that I have Pretensions, when I most solemnly assure Your Lordship, that the Duke of Chandos has

several times, before the Death of Mr. Stanley, authorized Me to *acquaint you* that He was ready to cede His Pretensions (in consequence of a former Promise) to the Government of the Isle of Wight to me, and added likewise, that I was at liberty to acquaint Your Lordship of it whenever I thought fit."

No. 2942—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour & great satisfaction to send your Majesty an undoubted confirmation of Sir George Rodneys success. Your Majesty will observe that the letter is not yet sent to the person to whom it is addressed, therefore will have the goodness if possible to return it as soon as may be convenient.

ADMIRALTY
Feb: 11*th* 1780.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2943—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Feb*: 11*th* 12. P.M.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the dispatches from Sir George Rodney which have been just now brought to this office by Captain Thompson of the America; as allso a private letter which Ld. Sandwich has recieved by the same hand from Sir George Rodney.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2944—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *feb.* 14*th* 1780.
$\frac{m}{20}$ *p four* PM.

I thought it necessary to take the Lord Presidents opinion upon the Letter from Cowes which Mr Stephens sent me today. It is by His Lordships advice that I have prepared the Dr^{t} that is here submitted to yr. Majesty. An order of Council would have been a more regular Method, but the case seems not to

admit of Delay, and as too great Precaution cannot be taken in things of the Kind I propose if the Dr[t] if approved by Yr Majesty to despatch a Messenger to Capt. Sadlier.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2945—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 304.

QUEENS HOUSE, *Feby.* 22*d.* 1780.
$\frac{m}{3}$ *pt.* 9. A.M.

Lord North Cannot be surprized at my having read with some astonishment that the Majority was so small this Morning, in a question which if it tended to anything was to circumscribe the power of the Crown to shew it[s] Benevolence to persons in Narrow Circumstances ; it shews what little dependence can be placed on the momentory whims that strike Popular Assemblies, had the Speaker been able to continue in the House last Teusday there was every reason to expect a Very great Majority, the Number of days that have Elapsed must naturally render a resumed Debate less animated. I cannot conclude without reminding Lord North of a similar event that happened during the time Mr. Grenville was at the Head of the Treasury Board ; the question on General Warrants ; when He wrote Me word of the Division marks of being dispirited were obvious ; I instantly answered that if He would but hide his feelings and speak with firmness the first occasion that offered He would find his numbers return. He followed my advice and the event exceed my most sanguine expectations.

No. 2946—*Note by the King.*

23 *February* 1780.

The Duke of Grafton has said, that He did not proscribe Lord North or any Man, that if any reasonable Man of the Ministry would meet Lord Camden, Himself, and any Third cool, steady person at the Head of the Opposition Their Views might be talked over fully and candidly without committing either Party, or any

Consequences arising from it that might tend to the prejudice of either. Or if the K—— wished to know His real Sentiments, H.M. might direct Ld. Hertford to talk with Him, as He looks upon Him to be a cool well wisher to his Country.

No. 2947—*Mr. Eden to Lord Sandwich.*

Downing Street. *Febry. 25th.*

My dear Lord—In obedience to your Wishes I have taken some trouble with much pleasure in order to enable you to submit to His Majesty a clear explanation of the Inconveniences attending the present Disposition of the House & Gardens of the Rangership of Greenwich Park.

Mr. Milne now waits on your Ldp. with a large Plan of the Places in Question & the Environs, all colour'd & laid down with so much Perspicuity, that the first View will shew every Circumstance.—Mr. Milne has also prepared & colour'd three cards mark'd A.B.C.—to be applied to the large Plan.—The first will shew the Situation if His Majesty shd. think proper to annex the present House & Gardens to the Hospital, & build a Lodge at the Top (which is I believe the finest situation in the Universe). The next, B., will shew the situation in Case His Majesty shd. pull down the present House (which is ruinous, uncomfortable & ugly) & place the Lodge as before mentioned on the Top of the Hill.—The third, C., will shew the situation in Case His Majesty shd. incline to give a part of the Garden only to the Hospital, & to repair & maintain the present House, clear'd only of the Paths & Foot Ways by the Windows, which at present destroy every comfortable Idea belonging to it.—Mr. Milne waits on your Ldp. in order to deliver these Papers of Information into your Hands, & they certainly do credit to Him as an Architect & a Man of Taste.—

If His Majesty on considering these Matters should be disposed to examine the Premises, His Majesty will certainly see the Expediency of adopting some Plan, tho it is possible that a better may occurr to His Majesty, than what your Ldp. will now have the Honour of Submitting.—

I have the Honour to be most respectfully W. Eden.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2948—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 306.

Queens House *Feby. 26th* 1780.
$\frac{m}{7}$ *pt* M.

I return the Papers Lord North left with Me yesterday on the strange State of Ireland, it paints things in a most unpleasant light but in my conscience I believe a true one ; it is impossible the Lord Lieutenant can himself think of remaining ; the language of Conolly is the most striking the misfortune is that I do not see any Man but Ld. Townshend willing to go at this time.

On coming home Yesterday I found the D. of Montagu had been with the Queen to express Ld. Aylesbury's wishes for Her Vacant Gold Key his Character is so respectable that if He chuses it, no man perhaps could be found out so proper Lord North will therefore be careful when he answers Lord Fauconberg's note though He expresses a willingness to lay his request before [me], to express that He is not certain whether prior applications and of great weight may not have been made already to both Me and the Queen. Indeed Lord Fauconberg's attendance on his Regiment could prevent his fully doing his Court Duty which in that office requires a very close attendance.

No. 2949—*Lord Hertford to the King.*

Lord Hertford presumes to acquaint the King that he has had a very long conversation this morning with the Duke of Grafton which he considers it his duty to report to his Majesty in private whenever he is pleased to order him.

Gros[r] Street
Febry 26th 1780
$\frac{1}{2}$ *past two.*

No. 2950—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Feb. 28th* 1780.
one o'clock P.M.

It is my Duty to transmit immediately to your Majesty the extraordinary Intelligence I have just received. I am as yet

unable to form any Judgment as to the Degree of credit it may deserve. I never saw the Mr. Drummond who gives it, but some years ago He sent me through a Mr. Elliot some Intelligence which was laid before Yr Maj^{ty} by Ld. Rochford & which seemed at that time to merit attention. Mr. Drummond's subsequent Information was thought immaterial, He was desired to discontinue it, had a small gratification of 100 £'s that by no means satisfied his Expectations that were indeed extravagant. He wrote several Letters to me full of complaint to which I made no answer.

The minister he refers to is Lord George Germain to whom he continues I believe to give intelligence. If a Discovery can be made of the authors and abetters of this intended Treaty and of the channels through which it is carried on, the Discovery will certainly be a most important one.

I am persuaded Your Majesty will be of opinion that the Exception Mr. Drummond proposes would be highly Improper, and that the Paper of Intelligence ought to be shewn Ld. Hillsborough the moment it returns from Yr. Majesty but not Mr. Drummond's Letter.

No. 2951—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 307.

Lord North's Note gives me great pleasure, the Majority this day on the rejection of so new an idea as the Self Vacating of Seats in Parliament, shews that noveltys are not agreable to the House and consequently I hope will make the same propriety attend the many novel ideas now before it.

I think the idea of bequeathing the Lieut Gen. of Marines on Rodney very proper, and if Lord North will send me a line that he agrees with Me in that opinion. I shall very readily give the directions for that purpose to Lord Sandwich. That Lord North may have the whole before Him. I must add that V. Adm. Barrington has asked that mark of Distinction ; but He is greatly Junior to the other.

Queens House.
Febry 29th 1780
$\frac{m}{23}$ *pt.* 8 P.M.

No. 2952—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *March* 1*st.* 1780.
Ten o'clock P.M.

I have just had a long secret conversatn. with my *Informer* but have drawn little from Him that can deserve Yr Majtys Notice tho' I am inclined to think Him well disposed and willing to tell all he knows.

He cannot tell me the names of the Delegates, but hopes to get them soon, neither does he know by whom they are deputed but thinks they are sent in consequence of a secret association Between the Roman Catholicks and Independents. (Yr Majesty will recollect that Lord Bristol in one of his Letters speaks of such an association & speaks of it with apprehension.) My Informers Intelligence is that these Delegates arrived at Paris the beginning of December last, that they are much encouraged by Monsieur Sartines with whom they treat, that by his Means they have been secretly admitted into the Presence of the French King. What he knows of their plan is vague and wild. he says they propose that Ireland shall be an Independent Kingdom, that there shall be a sort of Parlt. but no King, that the Protestant Religion shall still be the established Religion of the Country. (that is Protestanism, but not Episcopacy.) but that the Roman Catholics shall have the fullest *Toleration.* The Delegates are closely connected with Franklin who my Informer thinks carries on a correspondence by means of His, Franklin's, sister a Mrs. Johnstone now in London who has a small Lodging in Fountain Court in the Strand.

This is the substance of what I could collect from this Person who seems to me Ingenuous enough. He has confirmed my Suspicions of Hussey who he is persuaded is privy to this whole Design. I doubt much if any essential Discovery will be made, but the Business is too important not to merit Every attention.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2953—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to Your Majesty the dispatches recieved late last night from Admiral Parker, with

an account of some farther successes of Your Majesty's arms; tho' not of such importance as might have been expected from our superiority in those parts, both by Sea & Land.

Admiralty
March 2d: 1780

No. 2954—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 308.

Queens House *March 3d.* 1780
$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* 9. A.M.

I am greatly pleased after so many Arts have been used to intimidate Members of Parliament that the Question for postponing the Committee on Mr. Burke's Bill has been carried by a Majority of $\frac{35}{45}$. I do not doubt but that in the divisions on the different parts in the Committee that Number will greatly encrease. I never think it right to judge by the Event whether a Measure is right; but when the Event confirms an opinion priorly given it may prove that it was right, as such Lord North must see the Propriety of having rather divided on the day for holding the Committee, than against the Second reading of the Bill.

No. 2955—*The King to Lord North.*

Queens House *Mar. 3d.* 1780.

Least I should omit to mention to Lord North that I saw Lord Loudon Yesterday, I take this method of communicating to Him, that though Lord Loudon thought Lt. Col. Crawford would scarcely be called to America, yet He thought in a time of war and when no one could say whether this Island or Ireland might not require the service of the Guards, it was not proper for Officers in the Guards to be employed in foreign Courts; I owne the reason seems so forcible that I can by no means nominate Lt. Col. Crauford to a foreign Commission but on his quitting his Profession, and if I was to Advise him I should think in his Situation no means so advisable as His going to the East Indies.

No. 2956—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

It is with infinite joy that Lord Sandwich congratulates Your Majesty upon the safety of Prince William, the arrival of Admiral Digby with the whole fleet & prizes except the four that separated from him with Sir George Rodney on the 18th instant, bound to the West Indies. Admiral Digby in his way home fell in with a French convoy bound to the East Indies has taken the Protee of 64 guns & 700 men with £60,000 in specie on board, & 4 or five of the convoy, the dispatches & letters shall be sent immediately to Your Majesty.

Admiralty
March 5th. 1780

No. 2957—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *March* 5. 1780
$\frac{m}{15}$. P.M.

I will endeavour to avail myself of Your Majesty's just observations, and am happy to find that the Project of a Memorial appears to Yr Majty in the same Light in which it struck me.

I will prepare a Drt for Sr James Harris. I have some personal Knowledge of that Prince Galitzin, who is a man of low Intrigue and held in no estimation by his Court.

No. 2958—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *March* 6. 1780.

I submit to Your Majestys Consideration the inclosed Draught to Sr J. Harris in which I have endeavoured to avail myself of the Ideas Yr Majesty was so good as to suggest.

The Business in the House will make it impossible for me to prepare a private Letter for Sr. J. Yorke 'till tomorrow.

No. 2959—*Lord North to the King.*

[6 *March* 1780.]

As Lord North will not be able to pay his duty at St. James's today, He begs permission to inform his Majesty in this manner of the terms of the bargain made last Saturday.

£12,000,000. at 4 pr Cent.

anny. for 80 years of £1. 16s. 3d. for every Hundred Pounds.

Four Tickets in a Lottery of 480000 tickets for every thousand pounds.

The whole Annuity to be paid will amount to £697,500 pr annum.

The four pr Ct. annuities to be consolidated with the 4 pr Ct's of 1777, & consequently to be irredeemable for 7 years. The Long Annuities to be consolidated with the Old Long Annuities.

The Taxes suggested.

6d: upon Malt with an allowance to the Brewer for sale	350,000
British & foreign spirits	100,000
Excise upon refin'd sugar	100,000
5 pr ct. upon Beer duty.	65,000
Licenses for dealing in Tea	40,000
5 pr ct. upon Salt duty	12,000
4 Sh: upon Coals exported	12,000
Allowance for Leakage on Wine to be taken of . .	30,000
	709,000

Lord North will not be able to open the taxes till Friday, but the rest of the Budget will be open'd today.

Lord North will not promise that these taxes will not cause a great convulsion & give so much weight to the petitions as to force the Government to give way to opposition & their measures, especially if the people compare too nicely the advantages to result from the dependance of America, & the evils to be apprehended from these additional burthens.

Downing Street *Monday morn^g.*

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2960—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 308.

QUEENS HOUSE *March 7th.* 1780.

$\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

I expected from the Violence and illiberality of the Opposition that some means would have been found to have kept off the Opening of the Budget, Lord North therefore cannot doubt of my pleasure at finding He had laid the matter Yesterday before the Committee ; I knew by Lord North's letter in the Morning that the Taxes cannot be Stated till Friday. I trust a good Attendance will be got this day, as a Second Division may be attempted if they do not see that it is expected.

I think it right to take this method of putting Lord North on his guard as to the reason why Lord Sandwich wants that the Lieut. General of Marines should not be given to Sir G. Rodney, the apparent one is least it should disoblige Sir Chas. Hardy, but the true one is He wants by giving that Employment to Sir Charles to vacat Greenwich Hospital for Palisser which would Occasion noise, and not be a friendly action towards that Admiral, Rodney cannot have Greenwich as in all the Debates last Winter it was admitted last Winter that Greenwich ought not to be held by an Admiral in foreign parts. I therefore am much inclined Rodney should be Lieut. Gen. of Marines, something ought to be in a day or two as Mr. Bingham ought to carry the appointment.

No. 2961—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *March 7th*: 1780.

Lord Sandwich flatters himself that he has allready in great measure obeyed Your Majesty's commands.

He has seen the Comptroller of the Navy, who very heartily cooperates with him in taking the proper measures for purchasing the prizes in a summary way, & without taking anything out, or bringing them into dock.

He has allso been with Ld Amherst who on the part of the Ordnance engages to pursue the same plan with regard to the

guns & stores; so that it is to be hoped the ships may be kept ready for immediate service.

Lord Sandwich has likewise been with Lord North who much approves the whole plan, and we propose to have a meeting of Your Majesty's servants this evening or on Thursday in order to represent to Your Majesty the propriety of sending a detachment to America under the command of Admiral Graves; we propose to add the Royal Oak to this detachment which will augment it to six sail of the Line.

Your Majesty will if you please add to the list of ships at home the Nonsuch, as a ship that will be ready in two months.

Your Majesty will find a letter from Captain Young containing some particulars about the behaviour of the Sandwich when in action.

Lord Sandwich encloses a very exact list of the yesterdays division in the House of Lords.

No. 2962.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

At Ld Stormonts office March 7. 1780

Present

Ld Chancellor
Ld President
Ld Privy Seal
Ld Sandwich
Ld G. Germain
Ld North
Ld Amherst
Ld Stormont

On a Representation of the State of the fleet by the first Lord of the Admiralty who engaged that Thirty Sail of the Line should be ready for Sea by the first of May next exclusive of all Detachments for Foreign Parts made or herein orderd, (provided the Spanish and French Prizes are kept ready to be employed in the Service). It is agreed that Six Sail of the Line be prepared

with the utmost Expedition to be sent to North America, there being great Reason to believe from the Intelligence received that the French meditate to send thither a Considerable Force under Monsieur de Ternay.

No. 2963—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 310.

QUEENS HOUSE *March 7th.* 1780.

$\frac{m}{33}$ P.M.

On coming home I have found Lord North's letter enclosing one from the Lord Lieut. of Ireland whose idea of sending over the Irish Speaker seems of no kind of utility, for He cannot I trust persuade this Country to give up Ireland being bound to obey British Acts of Parliament, and He will not relinquish his National prejudices.

As to Lord North's propositions for making good the Services of this Year I have no doubt that they are those he finds the least objectionable for His knowledge of Finance is universally admitted; but I can never Suppose this Country so far lost to all ideas of Self importance as to be willing to grant America independence, if that could ever be universally adopted, I shall despair of this Country being ever preserved from a state of inferiority and consequently falling into a very low class among the European States, if we do not feel our own consequence other Nations will not treat us above what we esteem ourselves. I hope never to live to see that Day, for however I am treated I must love this Country.

No. 2964—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 310.

QUEENS HOUSE *March 9th.* 1780.

$\frac{m}{58}$. *pt.* 8. AM.

It was easy to conceive that if the Question could be put alone on the abolishing of the third Secretary of State, that the

disinclination that has in general existed against that Arrangement, and no small prejudice against the present Possessor, would make it very difficult to reject it, consequently the Division does surprize me, and I trust Lord North will have less trouble in rejecting the Subsequent Clauses.

No. 2965—*The King to Lord North.*

[? 10 *March*, 1780.]

QUEENS HOUSE $\frac{m}{49}$. *pt.* 10. AM.

LORD NORTH—I should be glad if You are not too fatigued after so many long days if You could call here at any hour most convenient to You this Evening, I have just seen Sir Fletcher Norton, who assures Me, He never saw You speak with more credit to my Service than the last night; Your conduct through the whole of this business gives Me infinite satisfaction.

No. 2966—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE *March* 10*th*. 1780

$\frac{m}{55}$ *pt.* 3. PM.

I am sorry to find Lord North is confined, but hope a couple of days rest will produce a perfect recovery, I can easily imagine the great fatigue he has undergone of late must naturally have proved inconvenient.

No. 2967—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *March* 13. 1780

$\frac{20}{m}$ *p.* 3 PM.

The Memorial which was read on Saturday to the Cabinet and approved there, is now submitted to Your Majesty, and if it has your approbation I mean to send it by tomorrows Post. It differs in many Parts from Sr J. Yorkes Project the Reasons of the variation I have stated in my Private Letter to Him.

No. 2968.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

At Ld. Stormonts office March 14. 1780.

Present

Ld. Chancellor
Ld. President
Ld. Privy Seal
Ld. Sandwich
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. G. Germain
Ld. North
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont

Agreed that Admiral Graves be sent immediately with *Eight* Ships of the Line instead of *Six* to New York to reinforce Admiral Arbuthnot.

No. 2969—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 311.

QUEENS HOUSE *Mar.* 14*th.* 1780
$\frac{m}{5}$. *pt.* 8. AM.

LORD NORTH—I am sorry Men should so far lose their reason and let the Violence of the times or fears actuate them as to forget the utility of the Board of Trade; but I trust on the subsequent questions of Mr. Burke's Bill the Numbers will again preponderate on the Side of Government and consequently though last night's Vote was unpleasant it will be of no real disservice; indeed Your opinion on Sunday rather made me expect that as has happened Opposition would carry the Question.

No. 2970—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for His Majesty's uses a list of the taxes moved yesterday in the Committee of Ways & Means, with the estimated produce of them.

Lord North has the honour of adding a letter from Lady Byron to her Majesty, which by her Majesty's commands was deliver'd to me by Lord Guilford in order to be submitted to your Majesty's consideration.

Downing Street *Mar*: 16. 1780.

Enclosure.

Estimate of Taxes.

Taxes, March 15. 1780.

Sixpence P. Bushell upon Malt after deducting Allowances to the common Brewer estimated at .	£310,000.
British Low Wines . 1 penny P. Gallon .	20,617.
Do. Spirits . 3 pence P. Gallon .	34,557.
Brandy . 1 Shilling P. Gallon . . .	35,310.
Rum . 1 Shilling P. Gallon . . .	70,958.
Wines—French Wine £8. other Wines at £4 P. Ton .	72,000.
Coals exported 4s: P Newcastle Chaldron . .	12,899.
£5 P. Cent on Preceding Duties	46,193.
10 Pence P. Bushell upon Salt	69,000
Stamp Duty of 6 pence upon Advertisemts: £9,000 / Do. on Receipts for Legacies . 12,000	21,000
Tea Licences at 5 Shillings P. Licence . . .	9,082
	£701,616

No. 2971—*The King to Lord North.*

Queens House *Mar.* 16*th.* 1780

$\frac{m}{5}$. *pt.* 8. P.M.

I am glad to find Lord North's Propositions for taxes to the amount of £700,000. have met with so little opposition ; no one can feel more sincerely than I do for the immence fatigue he has at this busy moment, and hopes that He is not worse for the late days he has had this Week.

No. 2972—*The King to Lord North.*

Agreable to Lord Sandwich's request I return to Lord North the letter Mr. Keene has received from Lady Rodney. I at the same time return the last Irish letters Lord North left with Me.

QUEENS HOUSE
Mar. 17*th.* 1780.
$\frac{m}{48}$. *pt.* 5 PM.

No. 2973—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 312.

QUEENS HOUSE *Mar.* 18*th.* 1780.
$\frac{m}{40}$. *pt.* 8. A.M.

Lord North's Account to Me of what had passed concerning Milbourne Port had thoroughly convinced Me that Mr. Luttrell's complaint could solely turn out to his own disadvantage, therefore I owne I do not approve of the House having not come to the Resolution that the Charge Against Lord North is ill founded and injurious, but let this be evaded by a previous Question, and I think Mr. Luttrell ought to have felt the indignation of the House.

No. 2974—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty a letter he has written to Sr. George Rodney. Since Lord Sandwich received his Majesty's commands upon the subject Lord North has heard from Lady Rodney, that Sr: George's wishes are to have some provision for his children. He has inserted such an idea in his letter, but would not send it till he has received his Majesty's commands. Lord North has prepared this letter, as the most convenient way of taking his Majesty's pleasure, as he will not be able to attend this morning at the Levée.

Lord North will alter his letter according to his Majesty's directions as soon as the business of the day shall have released him from the Ho: of Commons.

Monday Mar. 20. 1780.

No. 2975—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 312.

QUEENS HOUSE *Mar.* 21*st.* 1780
$\frac{m}{47}$. *pt.* 7. AM.

I am glad to find by Lord North's Note that the Committee on Mr. Burke's *Extraordinary* Bill has rejected seven of the Clauses with so good a Majority, the only thing I could have wished otherwise would have been the Division at an earlier hour that the Attendance might have proved less fatiguing.

No. 2976—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *March* 21*st:* 1780

Lord Sandwich has had an opportunity this morning of seeing the Duke of Montagu & Admiral Digby, & if their Royal Highnesses approve of going by water, they think it will be much the most adviseable to do so. In the idea that this plan meets with Your Majesty's sanction, Lord Sandwich will be at the Tower Stairs to recieve their Royal Highnesses on board the Admiralty barge to morrow at one o'clock ; we shall row down in less than an hour, and the ship will probably be launched at half past two o'clock.

Your Majesty will find in the enclosed paper an account of the arrival of part of the Jamaica fleet ; the remainder with the Chason may be hourly expected.

Lord Sandwich has heard that in the taking of the Monsieur, the Alexander greatly outsailed the Courageux, and that Lord Longford is highly pleased with his ship.

Captain Goodall of the Valiant will have the honour of attending to morrow at Your Majesty's Levee.

No. 2977—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *March* 21. 1780

The Despatches from Petersburgh which I lose no time in laying before Yr. Majty, tho' they are by no means so satisfactory

as there was at first Reason to hope, are more so than from Sr J. Harris last Letters was to be expected. The equipping a fleet is a favorable circumstance and the Interview with the Emperor may perhaps produce in the End a connexion between the two Imperial Courts; the Point to be aimed at present seems to be, to endeavour to inflame the Empress's Resentment and if possible engage her in a Quarrel with Spain for the Protection of her own Trade and that of the other Neutral Powers.

No. 2978—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

KENWOOD *Monday night March* 27. 1780.

The Dispatches which are just arrived from Sr Joseph Yorke seemed to require an immediate answer. I have added to the Dispatch I had prepared such a one as occurs in the Moment to me, and submit it to Your Majestys Consideration, humbly hoping that I shall receive Yr commands with Respect to the Language I am to hold to ct Wilderen. Little Inconvenience would arise from a Delay of three weeks, but there seem to me strong objections to the acquiescing in a Demand made in the Manner in which this comes, and unaccompanied with any friendly assurance.

No. 2979—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *March* 27. 1780

Your Majesty once did me the Honour to mention a Project that had been suggested of purchasing from Russia a Great Quantity of naval Stores. If that Project could be carried into execution it would perhaps be the best Manner of preventing Spains getting Stores from thence which Yr Majesty will see the Dispatches by this Mail, say is in Agitation, & to a very considerable amount. I can scarce believe that the Empress of Russia will allow Spain to purchase Ships but I doubt Naval Stores would not be refused.

No. 2980—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Tuesday Night*
March 28. 1780.

I am to see Count Wilderen tomorrow at His Desire, and as Your Majesty is graciously pleased to approve what I have said in my Despatch of this day to Sr Joseph Yorke, I shall make my answer to Ct Wilderen exactly conformable to it, and tell Him in the Politest Terms I can find that there can be no further Delay.

Sr. John Dick has recd. a Letter which he read me this Morning and which carries an appearance of the Empress of Russia's being really in earnest, determined at least to equip a fleet & send it beyond the Baltic. The Letter is of the 29th of Feby. and as it was sent by the common Post is written in a Manner that is intelligible to Him alone. According to His Explanation of it to Me Ct. Alexis Orrlow is to come to England in the beginning of May, and Admiral Grieg to follow with the fleet in about a Month after. Sr. John is persuaded that the whole is secretly arranged by the Empress without the Privity of Her Ministers, and that Count Alexis is to have the Nominal Command of the Russian Fleet.

I thought this Intelligence too important not to be immediately transmitted to Yr Majesty, tho' my Doubts I own are not yet removed; I apprehend the Empresses Irresolution, and the Influence of the King of Prussia who will use every Endeavour to preserve the Ascendant He has so long had over the Councils of Russia.

No. 2981—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *March* 29. 1780

The Drt I have prepared to Sr. J. Yorke contains a full account of my conversation with Count Wilderen. I did not give him the least Reason to expect any Alteration in Your Majestys Resolution, but would not refuse to take the Memorial to Yr Majesty as that might have appeared harsh, and might have laid ct Wilderen under Personal Difficulties.

No. 2982—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

[? *March*, 1780.]

Lord Sandwich does not trouble Your Majesty with the particulars of the Express recieved, as Lord Hillsborough is now with him & writing to Your Majesty on that subject. The Express arrived at this Office at four this morning, Ld. Sandwich immediately sent to Ld. Hillsborough & Ld. Amherst to meet here & consider what should be done, & before 5 o'clock a Messenger set off for Portsmouth with orders to Sir Thomas Pye to get the Nonsuch and all the frigates & cutters that can be instantly assembled at Portsmouth, to be ready to sail under the command of Sir James Wallace for the relief of the Islands; telling him that he may expect further orders in a few hours. we have it in contemplation to take the soldiers out of the men of war that are at Spithead as those that are the readiest to be sent; but unless they are replaced by others (in case of their detention) it will entirely disable five or six of the capital ships that are to go with Admiral Darby for the relief of Gibraltar.

Admiralty *Monday morning*
½ *past six* A.M.

No. 2983—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Saturday Night.*
April 1*st.* 1780

Your Majestys Doubts will be but too much confirmed by the inclosed Declarat[n] which I received this afternoon from M. Simolin who came to me by appointment. The second article if adhered to would totally destroy all that has been so properly resolved with regard to the Dutch. I suspect it to have been inserted with that View by Count Panin who has purposely led the Empress into this Mistake. The assertion is certainly false in fact. The best Writers on the Law of Nations, all agree that a Neutral ship does not protect the Property of the Enemy, except by particular Positive Treaty. It strikes me upon the first View of this Business which deserves to be most maturely considered, that the best Method of answering this Declarat[n] will be to answer it in very civil General Terms, and to instruct Sr.

J. Harris to take a fit opportunity of explaining the Mistake upon which the second article proceeds, and the Consequences to which it would lead highly pernicious to this Country, and therefore contrary to Her I. M^{tys} friendly Intentions.

No. 2984—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that, pursuant to his Majesty's permission, he has informed Lord Wentworth of his gracious intention of nominating Dr. Noel his Uncle to the Deanery of Salisbury, & Ld. North thinks it possible that Dr. Noel may attend at the Levee today in order to kiss his Majesty's hand.

Wednesday April 5th [1780].

No. 2985—*Lord Dartmouth to the King.*

It is one of the greatest mortifications that I feel at this moment, to find myself so near to your Majesty, without being able to appear in your Majesty's presence. The sense I have of your Majesty's goodness to me is a counterbalance to much of the uneasiness which my present situation necessarily brings along with it. It is too early for me yet, to depend much upon the effects of the Journey I have undertaken, but if I am to judge of them from any alteration I can already have experienced, I hope I may flatter myself that I shall receive all the Benefit that can be expected from it. Whenever it shall please God to compleat my Recovery, it will be my earnest wish to throw myself at your Majesty's feet, to return your Majesty my humble thanks for all your goodness to Sir, your Majesty's most devoted & grateful Subject & Servant DARTMOUTH.

No. 2986—*Lord North to the King.*

SIR—It has happen'd as I expected, & the House of Commons have come to three resolutions on the motion of Mr. Dunning by a considerable Majority

Ayes. 233.
Noes. 215.

If I had not for four years past apprized your Majesty that this event would happen & if I had not made it my constant prayer that I might be allow'd to quit your Majesty's Service, I should feel very unhappy now at what has happen'd & may further be expected. I humbly submit once more to your Majesty that it is absolutely necessary that I should be permitted to retire at the end of the Session, & some other arrangement take place.

I beg leave to subscribe myself, with the most dutiful attachment, Yr Majesty's most humble & most obedient Servant & Subject. NORTH.

DOWNING STREET
April 7. 2 *o'clock* A:M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 2987—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 313.

QUEENS HOUSE *April 7th.* 1780
$\frac{m}{50}$. *pt.* 7. A.M.

The whole tenour of Lord North's conduct from the Hour He accepted the Post He now fills is a Surety to Me that He will not expect an immediate answer on so very material an event as the one He alludes to in His letter that I have just found on my Table ; I cannot help just adding that the Resolutions come to in the Committee last night and already Reported to the House can by no means be looked on as personal to him ; I wish I did not feel at whom they are *personally levelled.*

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 2988—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S. *April 10th.* 1780.

I submit four Drts to Yr Majesty, those relative to the Memorial which is not yet settled must be deferred 'till tomorrow, as must the answer to Sr. J. Yorke. My attendance at the Cockpit and the House of Lords making it impossible for me to prepare the Drts 'till this Evening.

No. 2989—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *April* 10*th*: 1780.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty a disagreable account of the mutinous behaviour of the seamen on board several of the ships of Admiral Graves's Squadron, in which the said Admiral seems to have behaved in a very proper & officer like manner. A Messenger is gone to Sir Thomas Pye with orders to take every proper measure to quell the Mutiny on board the Invincible, & to bring the ringleaders to Justice: Your Majesty will observe that the men on board the other ships are all returned to their obedience.

Lord Sandwich encloses a copy of the orders sent to Sir Thomas Pye.

No. 2990—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *Monday Night*
April 10*th*. 1780.

The answer which was a thing of some Difficulty is now submitted to Your Majesty. It was at first very loose and general, afterwards was made particular and explicit, but upon the Judicious Reflexions in Sr. J. Yorke's Private Letter, and in some other correspondence from Holland was changed into its present shape, I consulted the Chancellor upon it, shewed him Sr. Josephs Letter, and he approved the General Idea of the Alteration I proposed. If it meets with Yr Majestys approbation, I intend despatching a Messenger to Petersburgh tomorrow Evening.

No. 2991—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 314.

QUEENS HOUSE

April 11*th*. 1780 $\frac{m}{15}$. *pt.* 8 A.M.

It is clear that had the five Members arrived in time last night the strange Resolution of the Committee would have been rejected, consequently Lord North must see things begin to wear a better aspect, a little time will I am certain open the Eyes of

Several who have been led on farther than they intended and Numbers will return ; for it cannot be the wish of the Majority to overturn the Constitution ; Factious Leaders and ruined Men wish it ; but the bulk of the Nation cannot see it in that Light, I therefore shall undoubtedly be assisted in preserving this excellent Constitution ; by a temperate but at the same time firm conduct ; it is attachment to my Country that alone actuates my purposes and Lord North shall see that at least there is one person willing to preserve unspoiled the most beautiful Combination that ever was framed.

No. 2992—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 314.

QUEENS HOUSE *April 14th.* 1780
$\frac{m}{8}$. *pt.* 8. AM.

The Division last Night for rejecting Mr. Crewe's Bill shews an inclination in the House of Commons of again viewing matters with some discression [*sic*]. I hope this will prove a just remark by the same propriety of conduct in the other Bills now before that House ; the Account of the Day before came in another Box at the same time as that of last Night.

No. 2993—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

After I came this Evening from the House I saw Mr. Robinson who told me of the Interview at the Opera House, which was brought about by the Intervention of Mr. Sheridan & all that passed between Lord North & Mr. Fox ; all that was said by the latter was evidently with a view to intimidate & Lord North should have considered it & treated it as such. I think it clear from all this, that Opposition want to treat & for some reason or other are afraid to go on ; & for this reason they came so readily into the long adjournment proposed. Lord North should never have confessed to Mr. Fox that He wished to retire, even if it was true, which I confess I dont think it is. I trust that Your Majesty's Firmness will make His Lordship recover His

Spirit, which has on this occasion given way. He is too fond of having it believed that He continues in Office contrary to His Inclination, & that the Ill Success of the Opposition is not owing to any Obstinacy of His.

It is clear that the Irish Priest, who is Lord Hillsborough's Spy, is at the same time in the Confidence of Mr. Sheridan, who told Him all that He told Lord Hilsborough; The Story of this Interview will soon, I fear, be generally known, & Lord North will be represented as the Person who sought it; & when it gets to the Ears of the other Ministers, they will all be offended, *particularly the Chancellour*; I think therefore that Lord North should without Loss of Time communicate the whole to the Chancellour at least; & I have advised Mr. Robinson to throw Himself in Lord Hilsborough's way, & when His Lordship tells Him the News He had learnt from His Spy, He, Mr. Robinson, should advise His Lordship to tell the whole immediately to Lord North, as this would alarm Him & be the Means of putting Him on His Guard; I conceive that Ld. North is to see Mr. Fox again, & to report what passed with your Majesty; & this inclines me humbly to advise your Majesty to be very carefull of the Conversations You have with Him, & to hold such sort of general Language as You used to hold before Christmas.

I have no Idea what Lord North means by the Concessions, that are to satisfie the Country Gentlemen.

I came to this Place late this Evening, which is the reason that I received your Majesty's Note so late, & will I hope serve as an Apology for not having answerd it sooner.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

Addiscombe Place
April 14*th*.
½ *past* 11 P.M.

No. 2994—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 316.

Queens House *April* 14*th*. 1780
$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt*. 7. PM.

I have not the Smallest doubt that the Speaker has pleaded illness to enable the Opposition to pursue the amusement at

Newmarket the next Week; the Adjourning for so long a time can alone be intended to delay the business; I hope it will not Succeed, as I flatter myself the friends of the Constitution will think it their interest as well as duty to stay and attend and the others will not be able to keep its Enemies in Town in such large Numbers.

No. 2995—*John Robinson to* [*Mr. Jenkinson*].

Most Private

My D. Sir—I wish I had been apprized of your coming to town so that I might have seen you before you went to St. James, altho' I had very little to say more than I communicated by Letter by last Nights post, except Observations as to Effects from Conduct & behaviour, & except one fact a transaction of yesterday with Ld. Dart—[mouth] which you wou'd hear of at St. James, but which had no effect with Ld. N:[orth] who wd. not permit One Word of it to be said at the Ca[binet]. I saw Ld. Hillsbo— again toDay for a Moment, but was interrupted by Ld. Sandwich, who was impatient abt. Plymouth, to which place, Sr. Chas. Hardy is set off to canvass with Sr. F. L. Rogers for his Colleague instead of Ld. Lewisham if Sr F. Rogers chooses it, in order to defeat Mr. Culme who has declared, Ld. L: being willing to decline. Ld. S: also wanted to speak to Ld. Hillsborough, & therefore I left them in my room toge^{r}, while I went to Ld. North who had sent for me and was also impatient—I therefore had but a few words with Ld. Hills[borough] but he told me that Ld. N: was very impatient with him also & wd. scarce let him talk on the Subject; and I found from Ld. Hillsborough, that it was *Sheridan* & not Cumberland who told Hussey of it—Ld. North told me that he found the K[ing] as I had stated to him I apprehended He wd.—I think there is the greatest delicacy in the Answer to be communicated to F—— I have mentd. this & endeavoured strongly to impress it, but I see it is a wish to keep the arranging of this as well as the narrative I advised to be minuted of the transaction, to himself & Brummell who has been the Negiotator of it with Sheridan, & therefore I shall not press more abt. it, tho' I suppose I shall see the Narrative of it when done, as the Idea of doing it seems

adopted—I still however fear the desire of bringing about a Meeting has been too much conveyed to F—— for the word *equally* used by him in return conveys it—And I can't but continue to think As I mentd. to you on Friday Evening, that the Rus[t][?] getting Air may weaken us among our rats, but more so, may disgust the Great Pillar, the Chancellor—Plymouth has engaged me all this Morng also, to get Sr. Chas. Hardy off properly, otherwise I shd. have gone to Court to have paid my Duty there and then have seen you. I have staid until the last Moment as I cant possibly have the pleasure of dining with you at Addiscombe—The Ld. Advocate said he wd. ride out to me at Syon Hill this Morning & probably I shall find him there at Dinner, beside I know not but that Ld. North may call there in his way down to Bushy Park for abt. ten o'Clock he went to the Attorney General to see him & I suppose to settle that Arangemt. which I apprehend Ld. N: will bring forward in this Week, as I see Eden, is pushing it—The Arangemt. of Speaker too I hear is most likely to come forward on ye 24th or soon after, for Doyley says that the Speaker is really so ill that he can't sit in the Chair, he thinks even to ye End of ye Sessions, & I think he will *not* sit there, in hopes of carrying his point for himself & Sr. L: D: in these very critical times ; but Doyley came forward with nothg. more—Ld. N: is more & more fixed I think to F: Montague. Adieu

Ever Yrs. most truly J. R.

Pray excuse a most hasty scrawl.

16*th April* 1780
15/*m p* 4 P:M.

No. 2996—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

ADDISCOMBE PLACE
Apr. 17*th.* 1780.
10. A:M:

When I return'd from St. James's yesterday Mr. Robinson was gone out of Town. He left however a Letter for me, which I think it right to send inclosed to your Majesty, as it contains some account of what passed between Lord North & Lord Dartmouth, as well as other particulars, which it is proper that

your Majesty should know. Though the present Speaker is ill, I am persuaded that He & His Friends make Him worse than He really is, & He will appear in the House of Commons on monday next or not, as it will best answer His purpose ; He has a communication open with Lord Rockingham through Mr. Thos. Dundas & with Lord North through Mr. D'Oyley ; & He will act according to the Information they bring Him & the Bargain He is able to make with either Party. I think it likely also that Lord North has opend a Communication with Mr. F. Monntague through Mr. C. Townshend or Lord Dartmouth, which makes Him now so much incline to His being Speaker in preference to Mr. Cornwall ; I shall take care to give Mr. Robinson the best Hints & Advice on this subject I am able. If the Attorney is to be made immediately Chief Justice, I hope that Lord North will lose no time in securing Mr. Mansfield.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

No. 2997—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North received the honour of his Majesty's commands by Lord Dartmouth but having given his promise not to mention any circumstance of the business except to his Majesty, He thinks that he can not, in honour, make any farther communication relating to it : Nothing having pass'd but a mere conversation, which is not to be follow'd by any other interview or negociation, or, indeed, by any consequence whatsoever. If some suspicion should get abroad, the talk will soon subside but no person will ever trust Lord North again, if he should divulge this transaction without the permission of the other party.

BUSHY PARK. *April* 17 [1780].

No. 2998—*Lord Dartmouth to the King.*

SR.—I received last night a letter from Lord North, wch. will shew your Majesty the result of my Conversation with him, & therefore I think it my Duty to lay it before your Majesty.

I likewise inclose a paper wch. Mr. Verelst has given me to

be added to the map of India, shewing the quantity of land contained in the British Possessions there.

I am Sr., yr. Majesty's most dutiful Subject & Servant

Tuesday morn. DARTMOUTH.
18 *April.* 1780.

No. 2999—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *April* 18. 1780.

I am sorry to trouble Your Majesty with such tedious and voluminous Dispatches, but I was unwilling to omit any thing that could be of the least Use in this critical conjuncture. Yr. Majesty will see that Monsr Dryers Politics are free from all suspicion of Dissimulation. His misrepresentations if they were to deceive at Bernsdorf might indispose the Court of Denmark, and therefore I do what I can to counteract the Effect of them. The Grossness of the Misrepresentation in a Man who does not want a Degree of ability suggests a suspicion of very unfriendly Designs.

No. 3000—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *April 20th*: 1780.

Lord Sandwich cannot avoid troubling your Majesty with the particulars of what passed at the meeting of the Committee of Petitioners on Teusday at Huntingdon, as they seem to contain some interesting matter.

The Committee was rather numerous, but no way respectable, being composed solely of the leaders of the faction, with the lowest of their tenants & dependants; whose attendance they canvassed from house to house for several preceding days.

Sir Robert Bonnard in the Chair proposed the same chain of articles as had been agreed to by Mr. Fox & his party at Westminster, which were opposed in a long speech by Lord Fitzwilliam; who declared that he could not agree to annual Parliaments or to altering the mode of electing the Members, & that he would oppose those propositions in the House of Lords.

The Duke of Manchester joined with Lord Fitzwilliam in what he said; tho' Lord Sandwich is informed that before they came

to the meeting he did his utmost to dissuade Lord Fitzwilliam from making this opposition.

Lord Carysfort and some other violent men differed greatly from the Duke & the Earl, & were for signing the articles in their utmost extent.

Not a word was said at the meeting about the County Election, but at dinner Lord Carysfort proposed Ld. Ludlow as a Candidate, and declared that if any vacancy should happen he meant to offer himself ; but that at present he did not mean to disturb the quiet of the County.

No. 3001—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *April* 21, 1780.

I have endeavoured to avail myself of the Ideas Yr Majesty was pleased to suggest yesterday, and have prepared a Drt to Mr. Eden which enters pretty largely into the subject, but yet I much doubt whether it will be sufficient to counteract M. Dryers petulant Ignorance & Misrepresentation.

No. 3002.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

At Ld. Dartmouth's April 22. 1780.

Present

The whole Cabinet.

Agreed that Admiral Graves be sent to North America with *Six* Ships of the Line instead of *Eight* and that two of the Ships originally intended for North America do sail immediately (and without waiting for the Convoy) to join Sr. George Rodney in the Leward Islands.

Two of the Young Regiments to be sent, one to Jersey and one to Guernsey, and one company of Invalids of Artillery to be sent to each Island.

Two thousand Recruits to be sent immediately to North America and also Recruits to compleat the Artillery Companies in America.

No. 3003—*Lord Cowper to the King.*

Sire—I take the liberty of addressing this letter to your Majesty to inform your Majesty of the great mortification I am under in not having succeeded in an affair, which I had so much at heart, and in the success of which depended my happiness. I refer your Majesty to the particulars in Sr. Horace Mann's dispatches: Be assured, Sire, that I have not left one sinew of my eloquence untryed to prevail upon these Royal Personages to bend the mind of his C. Majesty: and indeed to do them justice, I found them very much inclined to do it, but that their present critical situation would not permit them for the present to hazard an abrupt denial, which they assured me would be the case, as His C: Majesty was resolved not to listen to any proposals whatever, even from his nearest and most dear Relations: They desired me however to assure you, Sire, of their attachment to your Royal Person, and of the satisfaction they would have had in having been able to assist your Majesty in your very just intentions of bringing on a general peace: by the long discourse I had yesterday with the Sovreign here, I make no doubt but their Imperial Majesties will use their efforts to second your Majesty's views if they can hit upon a fair opportunity; and as to the Sovreigns here, they will not fail, in their private correspondence with Catholick Majesty, to do their utmost. The only consolation I have left, is, that your Majesty will approve of my conduct in this affair, and as these two Royal Personages honour me with their confidence, that your Majesty will be so gracious as to employ me in negotiating any affair of importance with them, as I flatter myself of being able to succeed in it sooner than any body else.

May I once more presume to intreat your Majesty for one of the three vacant Blue Ribbons? Such a mark of your Royal favour would in a great measure alleviate the mortification I am under at present in having failed in my enterprize: It is a great honour Your Majesty conferrs to all your Subjects in general,

that have the good fortune to meet with your Royal approbation: Be assured, Sire, that your Majesty cannot conferr it upon any body, that has your Majesty's measures more at heart than myself.

Permit me, Sire, to inform your Majesty that I have two Raphaels, one his own portrait done by himself, of which there is a mezzotinto print in London by Townley; the other a Madonna and child in the highest preservation, which I was offered £2000 for, but refused it, as I was resolved it should go to England: If Your Majesty chooses to purchase them, I will give them both for £2500: Zoffany can inform your Majesty of them, as he has had them in his hands: the reason of my disposing of them, is, that I have two more fine Raphaels in view, but my finances will not at present reach the sum, tho' I am at the same time sorry to let them escape: I flatter myself that my collection tho' much smaller than the Oxford one, will greatly exceed it in value. . . I have packed up part, but dont dare to venture them by sea at present: If your Majesty would lay your commands upon me to purchase any fine pictures, I will be bound to do it in the cheapest and best way possible, as I have many capital ones in view: I have ventured this letter to your Majesty by Capt. Strutt, that is setting off for England.

That God Almighty may assist your Majesty in your just cause, and give success to your army, is the constant prayer of, Sire, Your Majesty's most dutiful and most humble Servant and Subject COWPER

FLORENCE *April* 23*d*
1780.

No. 3004—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he has just heard that the Speaker intends to be at the House tomorrow. He will probably be fatigued as Mr. Dunning proposes to move his question in the House. It is to be an Address setting forth the Resolutions of the House of Commons. & the wishes of the people, & the necessity of given them contentment, & observing that no step but one has been taken which has been rejected by the Lords, &, therefore, petitioning your Majesty to continue the Parliament till some other proposals

can be made in execution of the resolutions of the House, & in compliance with the requests of the people.

Speaking yesterday with Mr. De Grey, Lord North finds that the Chief Justice would think himself ill-used if the Peerage is not confirm'd to his family at the moment of his resignation. One objection to that would be that it would have the appearance of a conditional resignation ; Lord North answered Mr. De Grey, that your Majesty did not so understand it, & that he could give no answer till he had laid this circumstance again before Your Majesty.

Downing Street
April 23, 1780.
$\frac{m}{50}$ *pt* 4. P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3005—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 316.

Queens House *April* 13*d.* 1780.
$\frac{m}{34}$ *pt.* 5. P.M.

Lord North's information concerning the Speaker must be the most exact ; at St. James's I heard this day that His Son had told Lord Onslow that the Speaker had at last resolved on the united recommendation of his family and Physician to resign, and consequently not to attend the House but write a letter for that purpose to Mr. Hatsel. Nothing can bring the present crisis to a more immediate issue than the question to be proposed tomorrow by Mr. Dunning ; but I trust the Members will see that the carrying it would dissolve the Government, and consequently that it will be rejected.

Lord North's language to Mr. De Grey yesterday was most proper ; I authorize Him therefore to accept of the Chief Justice's Resignation if it is simple and without conditions, but if it is to be accompanied with an expectation of an immediate Peerage, it cannot be received.

No. 3006—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 318.

QUEENS HOUSE *April 25th.* 1780.
$\frac{m}{52}$ *pt.* 7. A.M.

The considerable Majority last Night, gives me the hope that the House of Commons now Individually feel the lengths to which Opposition are driving, and that it is culpable for Men at an hour like this to stand Neuter but that every one is called upon by their Inclination as well as Duty to resist what no one can deny is a plan of changing the Constitution ; at least these sentiments are so much upmost in my breast, that I naturally Suppose they must reside also in those of others.

No. 3007—*Sir Samuel Hood to General* [?].

PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD *April 25th.* 1780

Accept my dear General my most unfeigned thanks, for the great honor you have done me, in the very friendly part, you so kindly took in my behalf ; and be assured I feel most Gratefully, and as I ought, His Majesty's most gracious intentions towards me, when a fitt opportunity offers ; 'till that period arrives, I will be perfectly patient ; and trust I shall prove myself not altogether unworthy of His royal favour, by my zeal for the honor & dignity of His Majesty's Service, in the department I now am.

Your advice, my dear Sir, is wholesome seasonable & sound, and I shall pay most strict attention to it. My conduct shall ever be truly consistent, and however much I may feel, from a want of that attention in the first Lord of the Admiralty, my rank & services give me a claim to, neither that, or any other consideration, can ever make me swerve in the least from the line of my duty, or lose sight of that zeal and ardent love I have ever professed for the interest of His Majesty's Government, and which, happen what may, I will never be wanting in.

Lady Hood offers you her best compliments & I entreat you will do me the honor to believe that I am with every sentiment of respect and esteem my dear General your most faithfull and much obliged humble Servant SAM HOOD.

No. 3008—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *April 25th.* 1780

$\frac{m}{12}$. *pt.* 10. P.M.

The whole conduct of this Day in the House of Commons meets with my Approbation; that Opposition should propose so strange a motion concerning the Militia which if agreed to would have entirely destroyed the utility of that respectable Corps, cannot meet with admiration from any Man that values his Country, the having it therefore rejected without a division shews the House viewed the proposition in its true light.

I am sorry to find Lord North has got the Gout; He ought by no means to attempt coming tomorrow to St. James the keeping quiet in the Morning is necessary to enable him to attend the House of Commons.

No. 3009—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *April 26th.* 1780

$\frac{m}{40}$ *pt.* 7. PM.

Having heard from Mr. North this day that Lord North had suffered more pain this morning from the Gout, I cannot let the Evening elapse without wishing to know how he continues.

No. 3010—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North was advised by Dr. Warren rather to stay at home today if possible than to go down to attend the House, which he has done accordingly, & is glad to find that his absence

has retarded no business, but that the Malt Bill & Recruiting Bill have both been read the second time. He takes the liberty of inclosing to his Majesty a short account of what pass'd.

Downing Street. *April 26th* [1780]. $\frac{m}{25}$ *pt* 7. P:M.

No. 3011—*The King to Lord North.*

Queens House *April 26th.* 1780

$\frac{m}{10}$ *pt.* 8 PM.

I am glad to find the Busyness in Parliament has gone on so well this day, and not less so that Ld. North has acquiesced in the Advice of Dr. Warren and stayed at home this day; I trust he will avoid coming to St. James's till He can do it with security, as I wish him to get strong for the Debates that must naturally soon come forward; He may order any Warrants that want my Signature to be sent in a Box.

No. 3012—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honor of acquainting your Majesty, that he has received the dispatches this instant from Sr. Henry Clinton and Major General Robertson from New Yorke. Sr. Henry now seems to be in a situation which gives every reasonable prospect of success notwithstanding the delay and the loss of some Transports, and the Defiance man of war though fortunately the men are all saved.

The detachment preparing for Canada may give General Haldimand the means of saving Quebec if the French forces should Attack him. Sr. Henry Clinton has great merit in providing for that service whilst he is engaged in so difficult and important an operation.

Pall Mall *April 26th.* 1780 50 *M. Pt.* 9. P.M.

These Letters are brought by Mr. Warde a Merchant.

No. 3013—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty of an event, which, indeed, he ought to have communicated to his Majesty some time ago, as the intention of Mr. Morice had been intrusted to him for that purpose, He owns, with great shame, that the whole of the business went out of his head, &, by that means, he did not execute Mr. Morice's commission. The event in question is, the Sale of the Boroughs of Launceston & Newport in Cornwall, that is to say, Mr. Morice's interest therein, to the Duke of Northumberland, with an Estate of about £1200 a year. Mr. Morice, when he gave Lord North notice of the transaction told him, that he believed the Duke intended to make this purchase for his second son. He left at the same time, with Lord North the inclosed paper containing the reasons which induced him to part with his estate & his interest in the two boroughs.

Downing Street. *Thursday Ap*: 27 [1780].

Enclosure.

An estate of twelve hundred pounds P. ann in a maner given up to the supporting the boroughs & three thousand pds. besides annually expended for that purpose & keeping up the house &c

The trouble of it not to say anything of the expence is more than Mr. M can bear with a constitution much impaired by the gout

The air of that country never agreed with him & he always finds the winter after the effects of having passd some months there

He lost a member last year after all the trouble & expence he had been at & notwithstanding the establishd interest he seems to have he may be worse off next time

In order to keep up his intrest he has been obligd to let a steward who naturally is not any aconomist act without controul By this means occasional expences have been sometimes enormous & he has done what he pleasd in regard of the rest of Mr. Morices estates under his care so that upon this acct there is not any calculation to be made of the expence.

No. 3014—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *April 28th.* 1780

$\frac{m}{58}$. *pt.* 7. AM.

It is with pleasure I see the Divisions were very handsome on the Revenue Bills Yesterday, which shews a certain degree of Steadiness in Gentlemen that has not appeared so decidedly in any former part of this Session. I hope Lord North did not Suffer by the Attendance Yesterday.

No. 3015—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 318.

QUEENS HOUSE *April 29th.* 1780

$\frac{m}{14}$. *pt.* 8. AM.

I am much pleased at being again enabled to express my Satisfaction at the Majorities on the rejection of the two Questions relative to retrenchments in my Household. I hope Lord North's foot has not suffered from the Attendance.

No. 3016—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 319.

QUEENS HOUSE *May* 2^{d} 1780.

$\frac{m}{3}$ *p.* $\frac{h}{9}$. A.M.

I am sorry to find no further progress was made in the Bill for Commissioners of Accounts than the Nomination of Sir Guy Carleton, at the Same time it is easy to conceive that the chief Debate must arise on the appointment of the first Commissioner as the question whether they should be Members or not of Parliament most naturally occurred in that Stage of the business.

No. 3017—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *May* 4th 1780.

$\frac{m}{25}$ P^{t} 7. A.M.

The Divisions in the course of Yesterday were certainly very favourable to Government and nothing different could have been wished, but that the business should have been concluded without detaining Gentlemen in so confined an Air to so late an hour; I hope Lord North has not materially Suffered from it.

No. 3018—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *May* 5th 1780.

$\frac{m}{30}$ P^{t} 7. A.M.

The Division on the Malt Bill were very favourable the last Night, I should have wished there had been less Coversation as it would have enabled the Bill to have got on that Occasion through that Haze and then on Monday it might have been reported.

No. 3019—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 319.

QUEEN'S HOUSE *May* 6th 1780

$\frac{m}{25}$ P^{t} 7. A.M.

The fate of no question this Session more sincerely interested Me than that of Yesterday, and as Such Ld. North will easily believe how much I am pleased at the Majority, it is founded on fatal experience that every invitation to reconciliation only strengthens the Demagogues in America in their Arts to convince the Deluded People that a little farther resistance must make the Mother Country yield; whilst at this hour every account of the Distresses of that Country shews that they must sue for peace this Summer if no great disaster befalls us.

I understand the Sardinian Minister has had letters from a Correspondent at Paris whose intelligence He says has always

proved true, that letters are arrived with the News of the Surrender of Charles[t]on the 19th of May, occasioned by a Bombardment which had destroyed part of the Town; that this comes from Passy; should this be so the Congress will soon be set aside by the distresses of that deluded People.

No. 3020.

List of Ships.

[In Lord Sandwich's handwriting.]

Will be ready soon.	Will be ready in a month.
Bellona	Inflexible
Nonsuch	Barfleur
Courageux	Valiant
Victory	Prince William
Brittannia	Gibraltar
Formidable	Cumberland
Namur	Alcide
Queen	Alfred
Ocean	
Duke	
Invincible	
Defence	
Alexander	
Buffalo	
Prince George	
Union	
Monarch	
Culloden	
Marlborough	
Dublin	
Royal George	
Foudroyant	
Pss Amelia	
Canada.	
Alfred	
Bienfaisant	

May 7.th 1780.

No. 3021—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *May* 10*th* 1780.

$\frac{m}{27}$ *p*^{t} 7. A.M.

I am sorry to find the hearing of Counsel on the Levant Bill took up the whole of yesterday, as it must have lost another day by hanging over all the business appointed for that to this day.

No. 3022—*The King to Lord North.*

WINDSOR CASTLE *May* 13*th* 1780.

$\frac{m}{5}$. *pt.* 9. A.M.

It is pleasing to See Lord North was able to get forward with the public business Yesterday; I am totally ignorant of the Merits of the Dispute on the Levant and Mediterranean but by what fell on Wednesday from Ld. North, He seemed not particularly to interest himself in the question.

No. 3023—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST JAMES'S *May.* 13. 1780

Your Majesty was gone to Windsor before the Drts now submitted to you could be got ready. I ventured to send the Letters by last Nights Post as there might have been some Inconvenience from Delay and the Nature of the Business seemed to be such as did not require any particular Commands from Yr Majesty.

No. 3024.

Extract of a Letter from Sir Henry Clinton, K.B. to Lord Geo. Germain, dated Charles Town South Caroline May 13th 1780.

With regard to Lieut Col^{l} Simcoe he has been at the head of a Battalion since October 1777, and since that time has been

the perpetual advance of the Army. The History of this Corps under his Command is a series of gallant, skilfull, and successfull Enterprizes against the Enemy without a single reverse. The Queens Rangers have killed or taken twice their own numbers; Co[ll] Simcoe himself, has been thrice wounded; and I do not scruple to assert that his Successes have been no less the fruit of the most extensive knowledge of his profession, which study and the experience within his reach could give him, than of the most watchfull attention, and shining Courage.

This Paragraph equally applied to the late Coll. Moncrieff &c &c

Surely, My Lord, Toil, Danger, and rare Endowments, are accessories which Rank is to requite, and which are to be honoured in preference to the negative merit of men less beholden to nature and their own Exertion—emulation must else subside, nor eminent worth be able to force itself to its proper Station.

A true Extract from the original Letter in the Secretary of States Office.

No. 3025—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the accounts received last night from Jamaica, containing, among other things, the particulars of an action of some of your Majesty's ships with Monsieur La Motte Piquet, much to the honour of the inferior force.

Admiralty.
May 14*th* 1780.

Lord Sandwich has the farther pleasure of sending to your Majesty the account of the safe arrival of the Edgar from Gibraltar.

No. 3026—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, That The Committee went through the greatest part of M[r] Burke's Bill today, & had in the course of it several divisions, in all of which M[r] Burke was defeated

Lord North feels himself so weak & unable to go on for any time, that he can not help reminding his Majesty of the request

he has lately had the honour more than once of submitting to his Majesty's goodness.

May 18. 1780. $\frac{m}{29}$. p^t 11. P.M.

No. 3027—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 321.

QUEENS HOUSE *May* 19*th* 1780.
$\frac{m}{15}$ p^t 8 A.M.

Lord North cannot doubt that I received with pleasure his Account of M^r Burke's Bill having been defeated in the Several Clauses that were before the Committee Yesterday.

But he cannot be surprised at the real sorrow occasioned by seeing He persists in the idea that His health will not long permit him to remain in his present situation ; if I had the powers of Oratory of Demosthenes or the pen of an Addison I could not say more on the Subject than what I can convey in the following few lines ; that I am conscious if Lord North will resolve with spirit to continue in his present Employment that with the Assistance of a new Parliament I shall be able to keep the present Constitution of this Country in its pristine Lustre, that there is no means of letting Lord North retire from taking the lead in the House of Commons that will not probably end in evil ; therefore till I see things change to a more favourable appearance I shall not think myself at liberty to consent to Lord North's request. He must be the judge whether he can therefore honorably desert me, when infuluble[1] [*sic*] mischeif must ensue.

Duplicate copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 3028—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

It is certainly very unpleasant to your Majesty to receive from time to time Notes from Lord North ; but I am still incredulous and do not think that He will ultimately decline

[1] This word is spelled in one copy as above, and in the other "infalable".

going on. He wrote his Note of last night when He was very much fatigued & out of Spirits; & indeed it must be confessed that His Labours are immense & such as few Constitutions could bear. Lord Sandwich had also convey^{d} to Him through M^{r} Robinson a Message respecting the Command of the Fleet which had displeased Him; & He suspected that this had been fixed with your Majesty without consulting Him; I humbly submit to your Majesty, that if You see Him today, it will be proper to endeavour to sooth Him, to consult Him on the Command of the Fleet & to manifest an intention of placing great Confidence in Him. Nothing can be more proper or more forcible than your Majesty's Answer to Lord North, & cannot fail of making a great Impression on Him.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON

PARK STREET
May 19th ¼ *past* 12

No. 3029—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *May* 20th
1780 $\frac{m}{25}$ p^{t} 9. A.M.

I was glad to find by the Note I received last Night from Lord North that the business of the day had ended so well; I had feared that the improper Motion of Sergeant Adair might have taken up more time and have consequently prevented the finishing the Malt Bill.

No. 3030—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *May* 20th 1780

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform your Majesty that Admiral Barrington came to town on the receipt of his letter; they have had a very long conversation together, but to no effectual purpose; the Admiral remaining obstinate in his determination not to command in chief; from the conviction of his unfitness, and being certain that with such a change, his mind would be in such constant agitation that it would cost him his life.

Lord Sandwich saw L^d North early this morning who agrees to either Admiral Geary or Man provided Barrington declines, but wishes that before it is finally determined it may be mentioned to day in the Cabinet; which will accordingly be done, and if approved a Messenger will be immediately sent to Admiral Geary who lives somewhere near Leatherhead in Surrey.

As to Admiral Man Lord Sandwich doubts much whither his infirmities would not induce him to decline the offer in case it was made him; he last night desired Lord Sandwich to recommend him to your Majesty for Greenwich Hospital, adding at the Same time that it was the only thing he now thought himself fit for.

Your Majesty will receive herewith the dispatches received last night from Commodore Johnson, as allso Admiral Barringtons report on the visitation of Hazlar Hospital.

No. 3031—*Lord North to the King.*

Sir—I am desired by M^r Crawford whose Brother sets out tomorrow for Portsmouth in order to embark for the East Indies, to prefer his humble petition to your Majesty that his Brother may not be removed from the very agreable as well as honourable situation he now enjoys in her Majesty's family.

I am sensible that I have already troubled your Majesty too much upon the subject of M^r Crawford's application, but, as I am, at the same time, conscious, that I have distress'd both him & his brother by my delays during some part of the business I confess that it would give me great comfort of mind, if I could be instrumental in procuring any thing for them that can give them satisfaction & convince them of the sincerity of my wishes to serve them.

Every person that goes to India hopes in a reasonable time to return, & nobody thinks with pleasure of returning in a worse situation than he goes; An office at court of a very genteel & distinguished kind such as that which is held by M^r Crawford, gives to any gentleman such a credit in the eyes of the world that I do not wonder at his unwillingness to part with it, & from the value which he must set upon it, I conclude that he

will feel the greatest & most lasting gratitude to your Majesty & the Queen, if your goodness will permit him to retain it.

I will not presume to add a word upon the deep sense I should have of your Majesty's gracious condescension to my humble solicitations on this occasion but beg leave to conclude with submitting myself, with the most dutiful attachment, Sir, Your most obedient & devoted subject & servant. NORTH.

DOWNING STREET
May 20. 1780.

No. 3032—*The King to Lord North.*

S[T] JAMES'S *May* 21[st] 1780.

On coming here I have found Lord North's letter in favour of M[r] Crawford; the Queen has but few Attendants which undoubtedly makes some difficulty; but so desirous is the Queen as well as myself to shew every attention to Lord North, that He is authorized to acquaint Lieut. Col. Crawford that He will remain Equerry to the Queen.

No. 3033—*The King to Lord North.*

KEW *May* 23[d] 1780 $\frac{m}{24}$ p[t] 7. A.M.

Considering the desire of the leader of Opposition to delay every Business before the House, much seems to have been gone through Yesterday, and I should hope will shorten the length of Debates for the remaining part of the session which I sincerely wish as much for the personal Ease of Lord North as for the advantage of Public Affairs.

No. 3034—*The King to Lord North.*

KEW *May* 25[th] 1780 $\frac{m}{38}$ p[t] 8 A.M.

Lord North's Account that business was forwarded Yesterday gives Me much pleasure, I trust now that little delay will arise in the winding up the business of this Session.

No. 3035—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *May* 25th 1780 $\frac{m}{18}$ p^t 6 P.M.

If Lord North will give notice for the Commission to be sent early tomorrow Morning to Kew if the Chancellor is still at Tunbridge, or to be at St James's by a quarter after twelve tomorrow if He is returned to Town I will detain it but few Minutes.

No. 3036—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that upon a motion for laying Sir George Rodney's letter before the House There was a debate, & a division

Ayes. 81.
Noes. 160.

Upon a second question that the letter should [be] deliver'd at the table seal'd up, The division was

Ayes. 79.
Noes. 159.

In Mr Dunning's Committee The Question for reporting the resolution for disqualifying several officers in the Household from sitting at Parliament. The Numbers were

Ayes. 134.
Noes. 177.

DOWNING STREET *May* 26. 1780.
12 *o'clock* P.M.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

26th May 1780

The House in the Commee of Supply voted the Money for the American Sufferers—

Read the East India Bill a 2d time & committed—

Lord George Gordon moved for a Copy of Sir George Rodney's Letter—

For it	Against it
Mr Fox Adml Pigot got up—pledged himself to do it & desired to have a Day fixed for it on which Friday was talked of— Mr Dunning for Ld G: Gordon's motion Admiral Keppell	Mr Dempster— Mr Pulteney—and call on Governmt to say that wd be improper — touched upon Governmts not employg Palliser & called upon Adml Pigot who had Pledged him to bring an Inquiry into that Bus. forward— Lord Advocate, agt an Inquiry abt Sr Hugh Palliser and against the Motion— Sir Rd Sutton

For	Against.
Mr Row— Mr Martin Mr Barre . . . improper, if too much had not already been said, but as it was more ought now to be published— Sir George Saville— Mr Ja. Lutterell—	Mr Penton— Mr Eden Lord Lisburn Lord G: Germain Lord North—

The House divided—Ayes— 81—
Noes— 160—

Motion made that so much of the Letter be laid before the House as relates to the Conduct of the Officers of the Fleet—Or to have it sealed up.

Sir George Saville Mr W. Hartley—	Lord North—

The House divided—Ayes— 78—
Noes— 159—

The Order of the Day was then moved for going into a Committee of the whole House on the Petitions of the People.

The Speaker left the Chair. . . . Mr Hussey took it.

Mr Byng—moved for the Petitions to be laid on the Table—

Mr Turner—violent—talked of moving to burn them, as the House wd pay no attention to them—

Mr Dunning moved to report the resolutions—
Sir George Yonge

Lord North—desired to know, whet it was proposed to move to report them together or Separately—because if so, must oppose both, if not, shd not object to the One he did not oppose in the Commee before, only to that he did oppose—

1st Motion read—An Account of all Monies paid to Members of Parliament as Salaries, Pensions or otherwise to be laid before the House within 7 Days of the beginning of every Session—read & agreed to be reported—

2d Motion to disqualify certain Officers from sitting in Parliament read and Objected to be reported—by

For it	Lord North
Mr Dunning	Mr Rigby—
Mr Turner	
Sir Edwd Astley	
Mr Byng—	

Question put to report it—

The House divided—Ayes— 134—
Noes— 188—

Mr Dunning then entred into a long detail & gave up for himself any furt proceedings in the Commee

Sir George Saville—very angry & read several Mots which he said he wd move—.

Mr Powis—moved

That no Relief had been given to the People upon the several Petitions presented from the Several Towns &c—

Against it

Mr Barre
Mr Powis

Sir George Saville—and all said that if such Modes were taken to keep these Motions off the Votes, they wd move them every Day of the Session—

Mr Ellis—moved for the Chairman to leave the Chair—
Coll Onslow—

Mr Hussey left the Chair—The Speaker took it—Mr Hussey reported the resolution—report ordered to be immy received—and accordingly received read & agreed to—

Mr Powis then moved in the House the like Motion as above moved in the Committe—

Mr Bynge

Ld Advocate moved to adjourn, and the House adjd accordingly—

No. 3037—*The King to Lord North.*

Kew *May* 27*th* 1780 $\frac{m}{23}$. p^t 7. AM.

Lord North Cannot doubt of the pleasure I felt on seeing the various matters before the House were yesterday so very respectably carried; I trust it will occasion but little more trouble being given during the remainder of the Session.

No. 3038—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Your Majesty having desired to know the state of Admiral Gearys fleet as far as concerns his time of sailing, Ld Sandwich has the honour to send a letter he has just recieved from the said Admiral, & to add that he will endeavour to stop all court Martials from being held till the fleet is sailed.

Lord Sandwich allso sends a letter from Captain Bromedge giving an account of his acquittal.

Lord Sandwich understands that L[d] Shelburne & Coll: Barre were at Portsmouth on Sunday & staid till Teusday evening.

ADMIRALTY
May 31[st] 1780

Your Majesty will please to turn over.

No. 3039—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

June 1[st] 1780.

This box was sent to the Queens House yesterday afternoon, but Lord Sandwich did not think it of sufficient importance to trouble your Majesty with it by a Messenger into the Country.

A Messenger went last night with orders to Sir Thomas Pye to stop all Courts Martial till Admiral Geary is sailed.

Lord Sandwich has just received the Petition in favour of James Knight, which your Majesty will find in this box.

No. 3040—*The King to Lord North.*

KEW *June* 1[st] 1780
$\frac{m}{55}$ p[t] 6. AM.

Lord North's intelligence that the Committees of Supply and Ways and Means were closed Yesterday gives me great pleasure as I trust this long Session of Parliament will be ended pretty soon.

No. 3041—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

S[T] JAMES' ½ *past* 2. A.M.
June 3[d] 1780.

Lord Hillsborough thinks it his Duty to acquaint your Majesty that so soon as the House of Lords was adjourned yesterday, He sent orders to the Commanding Officer upon Guard to double the Picquettes, & to be ready in case called upon by the Civil Magistrate. returning home he observed a Fire in Warwick Street, which proved to be made with the Furniture of

Count Haslang's Chappel. The same outrage had been before committed at Cordon's Chappell an order has been sent for a Guard to Belgioso's, Pinto's & Pignattelli's, & it is hoped no farther outrages will be committed, All possible care being taken by Lord Stormont & Lord Hillsborough to prevent any.

No. 3042—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 322.

KEW *June* 3^{d} 1780
$\frac{m}{28}$. p^{t} 7. A.M.

After Lord North left me Yesterday I heard from Lord Hillsborough that there was great difficulty in going to Parliament, I told him You were gone there and that the Lords ought also to attempt, since which I heard nothing till within this half hour, of the outrage at Count Haslang's and M^{r} de Cordon's Chappels; Parliament cannot help enquiring into this Riot, I have not heard whether the House of Lords also adjourned without proceeding to business.

No. 3043—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST JAMES'S *June* 4th [1780].
$\frac{20}{m}$. *p. Ten* P.M.

The Commands with which Your Majesty has been pleased to honour me shall be most punctually obeyed. Before I received them the Intention of them was so far fulfilled that I had taken every step that I thought could be of use. The orders which I had given have been repeated as Your Majesty will see by the Drts that accompany this.

The Information I have received gives me strong Reason to believe that the same Turbulent spirit still continues and that farther outrages may be attempted. If proper steps are taken to stem the Torrent, and to resist this Madness I should hope that the convulsion may bring back a Love of order and legal

Government and awake Men into a Sense of that Danger which threatens the whole.

No. 3044—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 323.

QUEENS HOUSE *June* 5*th* 1780

$\frac{m}{44}$ *p*^{t} 11. A.M.

I think it right to acquaint Lord North, that I have taken every step that could occur to Me to prevent any tumult to-morrow, and have seen that proper execution Orders have been sent by the two Secretaries of State. I trust Parliament will take such measures as the necessities of the time require; this tumult must be got the better of or it will encourage designing Men to use it as a President [*sic*] for assembling the People on other occasions if possible we must get to the bottom of it, and examples must be made; if anything occurs to Lord North wherein I can give any farther assistance I shall be ready to forward it for my attachment is to the Laws and Security of my Country, and to the protection of the Lives and properties of all my Subjects.

No. 3045—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST JAMES'S *June* 6*th* 1780

$\frac{35}{m}$ *p. Eleven* A.M.

Your Majesty's Commands shall be punctually obeyed L^{d} Hillsborough and I remained at the office till near two this Morning. The Riot before S^{r} G. Savilles House was then quelled and Every thing seemed to be Quiet for the Moment. There has been no Intelligence rec^{d} to day of any fresh outrage, but there will be immediately a Meeting here of Yr Maj^{tys} Confidential Serv^{ts} to see if any thing further can be done for the preservation of the Public Peace.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3046—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's $\frac{20}{m}$. *p. Three* P.M.

It is impossible to acquaint your Majty with the Detail of the different arrangements made and Letters written by L^{d} Hillsborough and Me as occasions arise. Nothing shall be omitted that we can do according to the last accts we have received. The Passage to the Houses of Parlt is free, but outrages are begun in the West End of the Town. They have actually attacked L^{d} Petre's House to the Protection of which a Body of Guards is gone.

L^{d} Hillsborough does not trouble Your Majty knowing that I have the Honour to write.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3047—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *June* 6. 1780
$\frac{40}{m}$. *p. Eight* P.M.

The House of L^{ds} did no material Business. Lord Sandwich in going thither was attacked and in a good deal of danger but escaped with a Slight Hurt.

The House of Commons is up. They agreed to Resolutions upon Privilege, & on two adresses to yr Majesty one similar to that of the House of Lords another that Parlt shd make good the damage sustained by Foreign Ministers. and then resolved that the Petition be taken into serious consideration so soon as the Riots have ceased.

The outrages continue, The House of Mr Hyde a Juctice of Peace who has acted with Steadiness in the Discharge of His Duty is demolished. Your Majtys confidential Serv^{ts} are to meet immediately at L^{d} Amherst' Desire.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3048—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that the House of Commons have in the course of the day come to the inclosed resolutions.

Tuesday June 6th [1780]
9 *o'clock.*

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3049—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *June* 6 [1780]
$\frac{10}{m}$ *p. Nine* P.M.

I have heard of no fire but that in S^{t} Martin's Lane occasioned by the burning the Justices House.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3050—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 324.

Queens House *June 6th* 1780
$\frac{m}{25}$ *p^{t}* 9. PM.

Lord North cannot be much surprised at my not thinking the House of Commons have this day advanced so far in the present business as the exigency of the times required the allowing Lord Geo. Gordon the avowed head of the Tumult to be at large certainly encourages the continuation of it, to which is to be added the great supineness of the Civil Magistrates; and I fear without more vigour that this will not subside; indeed unless exemplary punishment is procured it will remain a lasting disgrace, and will be a precident for future Commotions.

No. 3051—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *June* 6. 1780
$\frac{40}{m}$ *p. Eleven* P.M.

I lose no Time in submitting to yr Majesty the Resolution of the cabinet which it is humbly hoped Yr Majesty will approve. The Instant I received L^d^ Mayors Letter acquainting me with the attack intended upon the Bank orders were sent for a Detachment of Foot & cavalry which marched immediately.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3052.

Minute of Cabinet.

at L^d^ Stormonts office June 6^th^ [1780]

$\frac{45}{m}$ *p. Eleven* P.M.

The Disorders increasing to such a Degree and the outrages committed are of such a Nature that it is the humble but unanimous opinion of Your Majestys Servants underwritten that where the Civil Magistrate declines to direct the Soldiery to act with Effect, other Methods must be taken to preserve the Peace and protect the Lives & Properties of Your Majestys Subjects.

and it is also humbly submitted to Your Majesty that in this dangerous crisis it appears to us absolutely necessary that during the continuance of these Disorders the whole Military Force should be under one Command. The Manner of doing this is submitted to your Majestys Wisdom, but our humble opinion is that the appointment should be made immediately.

Geo. Germaine	Bathurst P.
North. Stormont	Dartmouth C.P.S.
Amherst.	Hillsborough

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3053—*Mr. Strutt to Lord Stormont.*

Mr Strutt presents his most respectful Compliments to the Lord Viscot Stormont, and acquaints him that he is desired by the Earl of Mansfield to let him know that he cannot be down at the House this day, and therefore desires he will get some Lords down Early in order to chuse a Speaker for the Day. Mr Strutt desires to know what time, and he will use his Endeavour to appoint a Bishop in order to Read Prayers—The Bishop of St Davids has been spoke to who has promis'd to be in the Way.

Parlt Office
7th *June* 1780.

No. 3054—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *June* 7. 1780.
$\frac{15}{m}$. *P. Eleven* A.M.

Your Majesty will have heerd of the dreadful outrages at Ld Mansfields House in Town. We and all the family are safe but in all other Respects the Destruction is compleat or what remains to compleat it which is but little is going on at this Hour. The Peace officers who were there have left the place as I understand. Knowing that Kenwood is threatened with the same Destruction I have wrote to Lord Amherst for a Detachment of Light Horse to be sent there to guard the Avenues. All the Accts I have recd since I paid my Duty to yr Majesty last Night confirm me in my opinion tht this is a deep laid Revolt. & that the Ringleaders at least act with Deliberate Rage and upon a fixt. predetermined plan. Their open language at Bloomsbury was tht my House was to be attacked Next. I left a Guard there of a Sargeant & 18 Men who have assured me that they will do their Duty.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3055—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's.

Your Majesty will receive more exact accounts from L^d^ Amherst than any I can send. The Result of the last Information I have rec^d^ is that the Rioters made an attack upon the Bank where several of them were killed there has also been considerable Execution in S^t^ George's Fields. The officers seem now perfectly to understand the Orders they have received and I hope that these Executions if continued with Vigour will reistablish Government which has been shook to its Basis.

I have just learnt that There are several Dreadful Fires in the Town. The two great Distilleries of M^r^ Langdale are destroyed. His Loss is above sixty thousand Pound, and He is reduced in a Moment from Affluence to Poverty: Y^r^ Majesty's Printers House has also been burnt The Kings Bench The Fleet Prison The New Prison and the Toll House to the Bridge are totally burnt and greatest part of one side of Fleet Ditch. I am quite shocked to send Y^r^ Majesty such dreadful accounts. The Report of considerable Execution in S^t^ Georges Fields is not confirmed.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3056—*Minute by the King.*

It is impossible for His Majesty to see Lord George Gordon untill He has given sufficient Proof of his Loyalty and allegiance by employing those Means which he says are in his Power to quell the present Disturbances & restore Peace to this Capital.

The first fifteen words in the King's handwriting, the remainder in Lord Stormont's.

Endorsed by the King, Substance of this minute to be declared by Ld. Stormont to Ld. G. Gordon in the Porter's Lodge. June 7th, 1780.

No. 3057—*Lord Hertford to the King.*

Sire—The Duke of Grafton whom I have just seen is sensible in the highest degree of your Majesty's goodness & condescention to him in permitting me to assure him that your Majesty had entertained no impression to his prejudice from his not attending the Council last night.

He afterwards asked me for the paper which I presumed to put into your Majesty's hands saying it was not drawn with accuracy enough tc be left there, & was only meant to satisfie me who am a very cautious Man.

If your Majesty has not burnt it or thrown it away, & can with that indulgence which I experience in every instance return it to me, without trouble to yourself, I shall esteem it a mark of goodness as it may enable me to satisfie his Grace's Intentions, But if there is the least impropriety in my proceeding to give your Majesty any further trouble upon the occasion, it will be a very sufficient reason for me to be satisfied without it.

I have the honor to be with the truest & most respectful attachment Sire Your Majesty's Most faithful and devoted humble serv Hertford.

Gros^{v} Street
June 8, 1780.

No. 3058—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North, not recollecting that there would be no drawing room at S^{t} James's today, went thither in order to pay his duty to His Majesty & to inform him amongst other things, that the Lord Chief Justice DeGrey had sent his resignation to the Clerk of the Crown, & to take his Majesty's pleasure whether M^{r} Wedderburn should kiss his Majesty's hand tomorrow; Lord [North] received as he set out the inclosed note from M^{r} DeGrey which he takes the liberty of transmitting to his Majesty.

Lord North returned from Court immediately to converse with the Solicitor General upon the information he had received concerning Lord George Gordon, when he found upon his table a summoning and [*sic*] to attend a Council at L^{d} Stormont's

Office, which has lasted ever since, & prevented him from paying his duty at the Queens House to ask his Majesty's commands. If his Majesty should have any with Lord North they will find him always in Downing Street, from whence he, probably, shall not stir the whole afternoon, unless upon summons from His Majesty or the Cabinet.

Downing Street.
Thursday June 8. $\frac{3}{4}$ *p*^{t} 4. P.M. [1780]

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3059—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 325.

I desire Lord North will come here this Evening at any time convenient to Him; He will in consequence of the Resignation of Lord Chief Justice De Grey acquaint M^{r} Wedderburn that [he] is tomorrow to Kiss hands on being appointed Chief Justice of the Common Pleas.

Queens House
June 8th 1780.
$\frac{m}{20}$ *p*^{t} 5. P.M.

No. 3060—*Memorandum by the Duke of Grafton.*

The Duke of Grafton's Services are always at His Majesty's Command: but His Majesty is so well informed of the D. of Grafton's Determination not to sit at Council with Ministers, who in his Opinion have adopted a System that has brought this Country under such Calamities, that he is pursuaded His Majesty will see that the D. of G. cannot become an Instrument to carry into Execution Measures previously planned by the same Ministers, and on which he has not been consulted in any Shape whatever.

Lord Hertford will be pleased to consider this as the substance only of his Conversation this Morning, which he wishes to be

humbly represented by his Lordship with the Assurances of the most Dutiful Attachment to His Majesty.

Copy in the King's handwriting, endorsed: Copy of a memorandum given by the D. of Grafton to the E. of Hertford, June 8th, 1780.

No. 3061—*The King to Lord North.*

I wish to know what Steps Lord North has taken for forwarding the Appointment of the Attorney General to the Office of Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, for I wish no time may be unnecessary in compleating that business.

QUEENS HOUSE
June 9th 1780
$\frac{m}{2}$ p^t 9 A.M.

I hope every means are taking to find out the movers and Abettors of the horrid Tumult we are now beginning to quell; Ld. North has perhaps not yet heard that the Inhabitants Seeing they are Protected begin to regain Spirit in Southwark, Seventy armed Gentlemen joined the forces there to defend their Property, this spirit gains and will I trust shew that I have acted as I ought.

No. 3062—*Lord North to the King.*

[9 *June*, 1780.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that he has sent to M^r Wedderburn to acquaint him that it is his Majesty's pleasure, that he should kiss hands to-day; He has also written to the Lord Chancellor to inform him of Lord Chief Justice De Grey's resignation; He believes that if M^r Wedderburn should kiss his Majesty's hand today, There will be time enough to complete the rest of the business before the end of the Term even though some delay should arise from the absence of the Chancellor.

Lord North supposes that he may inform M^r Wallace of His Majesty's intention to appoint him Attorney General, & that he may from his Majesty offer the place of Solicitor General to M^r Mansfield.

DOWNING STREET *Friday Morn*

No. 3063—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North will acquaint the Sollicitor General that he is to Succeed as Attorney, and Offer his Office to M^{r} Mansfield. Lieut General Johnston is just arrived and tells me that He saw the Lord Chancellor last Night at the Castle at Salt hill.

QUEENS HOUSE.
June 9th 1780.
$\frac{m}{24}$ p^{t} 10 A.M.

No. 3064—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST JAMES'S June 9. 1780.
five o'clock. P.M.

I have just rec^{d} Information that L^{d} G. Gordon has been taken into Custody and is now conducting to the Horse Guards where L^{d} Hillsborough & I together with the Attorney & Sollicitor General are going to examine Him.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3065—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I presume to trouble your Majesty with the Inclosed State of the Forces in London & the Neighbourhood & with the Disposition of them, as it stood at 4 o'clock.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

WAR OFFICE.
June 9th 1780
5 *M. past* 9.

No. 3066—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I presume to send Your Majesty a state of the Troops in London & its Neighbourhood with an Account of their Distribution as it stood at 9 o'Clock. The Riots seem every where

to decline in consequence of the Impressions which the Troops have made.

I add an Account of the Recruits for the last Week.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

WAR OFFICE
June 8th 1780
9 *o'Clock* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3067—? *to the King.*

I am extremely pleased with the proceedings of yesterday, having passed a great part of the day at the house of an aquaintance in the City, in order to have a more immediate knowledge of their effects. The proclamation issued by his Majesty, and which, I doubt not, was the Suggestion of his own noble Mind, has restored the Constitution of this Country to its former energy and lustre, from which it has been graduall [*sic*] declining for many years, till it seemed to be irrecoverably lost. He is now a *King*, and may it please God long to continue him so. If Monsieur de Beaumarchais should still deny him to be a *Roi*, it will give me no displeasure at all, and will give, I believe, as little to his Majesty. With a due exertion of the Royal prerogative, a most valuable part of our constitution, the legislative authority of Parliament may be still preserved; which would have been altogether destroyed if our worthy Patriots, and their Mobs had been left at full freedom to carry on their operations; for such operations must have necessarily ended in a *Roi* of the worst kind, Supported merely by a regimented Mob, or military power, without any parliamentary check at all. I hope the ancient executive power of the State, being thus revived with such usefull effect will never be suffered again to fall so fast asleep, as only to be roused by the murder of good men, the burning of houses and the opening of prisons, and such other terrors as our wretched Town has been visited with for this week past. It is a folly to talk of a Country *being governed by Laws*, when there is no person in it who has the power or the Courage to put those Laws in execution.

Friday
June 9th 1780.

No. 3068—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I understand that Lord Mansfield is at Ken Wood, & wishes to see me, I intend therefore (if your Majesty has no objection) to go there between 4 & 5 for a short time, if Your Majesty would have me say anything to Lord & Lady Mansfield on your part, I shall with pleasure receive your Majesty's Commands on that subject.

From your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

WAR OFFICE,
June 11*th* [1780], ¾ *p.* 2.

No. 3069—*Lord Sandwich to* [*Mr. Jenkinson ?*].

June 12*th*, 1780.

Captain Mulcaster of the Engineers now at Jersey is a principal evidence in a charge brought against Mr. Newby for criminal conversation with the Countess of Corke, which is to be heard at the sittings after this term.

Mr. Mulcasters appearance will be wanted in the course of ten days at farthest.

Lord Sandwich makes it his particular request that Mr. Mulcaster may be immediately ordered to England to attend this trial.

No. 3070—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

Lord Chief Justice delivered to Lord Hillsborough the Paper signed by the Irish Templers to be laid before your Majesty. a Letter is written to him, in which it is said your Majesty has been pleased to receive it very graciously.

The Address could not be gotten in time for Saturdays Gazette but will be inserted this night. The Inhabitants of the Borough have been with difficulty prevented from bringing up the Address.

ST. JAMES'S
13*th June*, 1780.
11. A.M.

No. 3071—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's $\frac{33}{m}$ *p. three* P.M.
June 13, 1780.

Lord Stormont when he got near the Queens House accidentally learnt that Your Majesty was set down to Dinner. He will therefore defer obeying Your Majestys Commands till five o'clock. He understands it to be Yr. Majesty's Pleasure that He should not wait to dress.

No. 3072—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *June* 13*th* 1780.
Ten o'Clock P.M.

I have seen Ld. Hertford who does not recollect having delivered any Message to the Foreign Ministers, but he promised to inquire at His Office. He is sure tht He gave nothing in writing and is inclined to believe tht there was a verbal communication made to the whole Corps Diplomatique by the Secretary of State.

I have had a Message from Lord Buckingham through Mr. Langlois to the following effect. He wishes Your Majesty to be immediately informed by me that if it is thought tht he can be of any use in preventing any Sedition in the Riding of which he is Ld. Lieut. He is ready to set out at a Moments warning and will exert himself to the utmost, but if this offer is accepted He trusts that upon this occasion it will be generally understood that he goes with the approbation of Government, and is to meet with every assistance that Government can give Him in the Discharge of this Duty.

As there seems to be no immediate Danger of any Sedition in Yorkshire I would humbly submit to Your Majesty whether it would not be expedient that a civil general answer should be returned by me, applauding his Zeal upon this occasion, but declining the offer for the present.

No. 3073—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

When Your Majesty commands me to give my opinion it is my Duty to give it without hesitation. It does strike me that the Cannon firing might be liable to the objection Your Majesty mentions, and for that Reason had better be countermanded.

St. James's.
June 13, 1780.
$\frac{13}{M}$ *p. Eleven* P.M.

No. 3074—*The Duke of Gordon to the King.*

Glasgow *June* 14*th.* 1780.

Sir—Amidst the general concern which every loyal Subject must feel on account of the late unwarrantable disturbances, permit me to assure your Majesty that it gives me the greatest affliction to hear that my brother Lord George Gordon stands accused or suspected of taking any part in measures which have the appearance of disaffection to your Majesty's Person or Government. I should upon this unhappy occasion have thought myself particularly called upon to present myself before your Majesty to testify my dutiful and zealous attachment, and if my brother shall unfortunately be found to have been so far misled, to implore your Royal Mercy, did I not think the best proof I can give of my Zeal and Attachment is, to remain with my Regiment where my Duty has placed me, ready to give your Majesty every Aid in my Power, not only in repelling any foreign enemy, but in supporting Government, by the preservation of good order at home. I have the honor to be with the most dutiful attachment Your Majestys Most faithful and devoted Servant Gordon.

No. 3075—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *June* 15*th* 1780

Lord Sandwich hopes your Majesty will have the goodness to forgive his not attending at the Drawing room today to con-

gratulate your Majesties on the important success of your arms, having this moment received an account of the death of his youngest grandson.

Your Majesty will have the goodness to send back Admiral Arbuthnots dispatches as soon as they are done with, as they will be wanted in order to furnish Materials for a Gazette Extraordinary.

No. 3076—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's $\frac{30}{m}$ *p. two* P.M.

It is my duty to transmit to Your Majesty a Paper I have just recd. from Ld. Advocate which contains Circumstances favorable to Charles Cocks now under Sentence of Death. Ld. Advocate has also recd. Information from various Masters which makes it highly probable that the Judges who condemned Cocks did think that Your Majesty's Mercy would be extended to Him tho they did not consider him as quite so deserving of it as Dagleish. As the above mentioned Information cannot be considered as properly authenticated What I would humbly submit to your Majesty & what meets entirely the Advocates opinion is that the Criminal should be respited till the first of July. which will give the advocate time to learn correctly & report officially the opinion of the Judges.

No. 3077—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I have seen Lord Amherst, who has no thoughts of removing the Northumberland Militia from their present Quarters, till He has seen your Majesty tomorrow & received your Commands.

I have received a Letter from Major General Hall, by which it appears that the Magistrates of Newcastle are apprehensive of Riots & at their Desire he had detaind the Lancashire Militia at Newcastle till Sr. George Saville's Regiment arrives.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. Jenkinson.

June 15th [1780],
$\frac{3}{4}$ *p.* 7.

No. 3078—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North—I find from the Duke of Gloucester that Sir Paulett St. John is dead, who held an Office in the New Forest, I cannot at this time wish that any one should be appointed to that Employment but one Agreable to the Dk. of Gloucester I find his wishes are in favour of Lieut. Col. Heywood; it is impossible therefore that anyone can be Appointed but Lieut. Col. Heywood; so respectable an application to Me, will ease Lord North from the many Suitors He naturally has had on this Occasion, and will prevent him from the unpleasant task of disobliging many by obliging one.

Queens House, *June* 16*th*, 1780 $\frac{m}{32}$ *p.* 11 A.M.

No. 3079—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *June* 17*th* 1780.

In answer to the contents of the note with which Ld Sandwich is just now honoured by your Majesty, he takes the liberty to observe that as neither Captain Collins of the Victory, or Captain Pole of the Britannia had more than 28 gun frigates, it would in his opinion occasion unneasiness if, Captain Patton had a ship of a higher rate.

Lord Sandwich had some conversation a few days ago with the Comptroller (Captain Pattons great friend) who had not the least expectation of anything for him above a ship of 28 guns, & seemed perfectly satisfied with Lord Sandwich's saying he should have the second of that class that became vacant, as he was under a sort of engagement to Captain Stanhope to move him from the Garland into the first vacancy of a frigate of 28 guns. However this engagement must of course give way if your Majesty wishes Captain Patton should be immediately provided for; the only way that Ld Sandwich can find of doing it is to give the Apollo to Captain Montagu of the Medea who is by far the Senior Officer at home who is in the Command of a 28 gun ship, the others are much too low on the list to have any claim as yet to a fifth rate. Your Majesty will observe that Lord

Sandwich has no intention of giving this step to Captain Montagu, unless it is upon this arrangement of providing for Patton in consequence of the honour he has of your Majestys patronage.

Lord Sandwich will wait your Majesty's pleasure before he does anything farther in this business.

Lieutenant Pellew will certainly be promoted when a proper opportunity offers.

Lord Sandwichs original intention was to have given the Apollo to some Captain on half-pay, of which there are many solliciting employment, but if your Majesty approves the arrangement with regard to the Medea they must wait till other opportunities happen.

No. 3080—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I have just heard from Mr. Robinson; He tells me that Lord Mansfield & Lord Loughborough have been with Lord North all this morning; that the Speech has again been rescinded upon the Advice of the two Cheif Justices; that they thought it too *tame* & like *asking pardon*; that Government should *take* an Indemnity, but not *ask* it, for doing what they say, is *right*. He was detained at home all the morning in doing this, so that I conceive Your Majesty has neither seen Him nor heard from Him.

He has taken no step in return to the Advances made by Opposition; & Mr. Robinson doubts whether He ever will take any or inform your Majesty of what has passed; Mr. Robinson adds that He thinks I am a true Prophet in having always said that Lord North never meant to treat or to part with the smallest Degree of Power.

I thought it as right to apprize your Majesty of all this, that You might be prepared against You see Lord North or the other Ministers.

I have heard nothing of the Resolutions, so that I conceive they stand nearly as they did.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. Jenkinson.

Parlt. Street,
June 17*th* [1780]
8 *o'Clock.*

No. 3081—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I have just received the Inclosed from Mr. Robinson; As it seems to be of Importance, I presume to send it to Your Majesty immediately.

Lord Mansfield has just been with me complaining that no one has talkd to Him or consulted Him on the Proceedings in Parliament on Monday. I have apprized Lord North of this. Lord Mansfield appears to be very much depressed.

From Yours Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

PARLT. STREET,
June 17*th* [1780],
$\frac{m}{40}$ *p.* 10.

No. 3082—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE,
June 19*th* 1780 $\frac{m}{40}$ *p.* 6 P.M.

Lord North may easily conceive that his account of the Address having passed Unanimously this day has given Me much pleasure; I desire He will acquaint Sir Richard Worsley that I will receive the House of Commons tomorrow at three o'clock; Lord North will have a proper answer prepared to the Address. I have appointed the House of Lords at two o'Clock.

No. 3083—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 325.

QUEENS HOUSE,
June 21*st*, 1780 $\frac{m}{34}$ *p.* 7. A.M.

I am greatly pleased at the Manner in which the business seems to have been conducted Yesterday in the House of Commons, particularly at the having withdrawn the Fourth Resolution and admitted in lieu of it a Bill for preventing the Educating Protestants at Popish Schools, as this mode seems

more effectual and in reality the only grievance that seemed to have the smallest foundation.

I hope Lord North has not suffered from the heat that must have attended sitting so long at this time of the year in the House of Commons; I trust this Bill will be got through the House with all the Expedition that the Forms and Rules of Proceeding will admit.

No. 3084—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's,
Thursday Night, June 22 1780

I found it impossible to get the different Drts. prepared Time enough to be submitted to your Majesty this evening, but they will be laid before you early tomorrow. I hope that in what relates to the archduke I have not gone beyond the line of compliment to which I understand your Majesty had no objection.

No. 3085.

Copy.

Minute of Cabinet.

At Ld. Dartmouths
June 24 1780.

Present

The Whole Cabinet except the Chancellor who is indisposed.

Agreed that upon the authentic Information received from Commodore Johnston of two Squadrons cruizing upon particular Stations to intercept every outward and Homeward bound Trade it be submitted to His Majesty to order Admiral Geary to detach one or more of the Admirals under His command with a squadron of Ten sail of the Line with a proper Number of Frigates on a cruize of not more than a Month from the time of their leaving the Fleet, to look for the Said Squadrons. These orders to be peremptory unless Admiral Geary shall have received some Information of which we are not in Possession of the Strength & Motives of the Enemy which make the Measure unadvisable. A Letter of this date from [the] Ld. Mayor to the Lord President was read and it was not thought expedient that any answer was necessary.

No. 3086.

[? 1780.]

Line of Battle

The Edgar to lead on both Tacks, unless it shall be otherwise directed by Signal

Frigates.	Rates	Ships	Commanders	Guns	Men	Division
	3	Edgar	John Elliott	74	600	Van Squadron Robt. Digby Esqr. Rear Adm. of the Red.
	„	Alexander	Rt. Hble. Lord Longford	74	600	
	„	Bienfaisant	Richd. Braithwaite	64	500	
Maidstone	2	Queen	Hble. Fredk. Maitland	90	750	
Crescent to rept. Signals	2	Pce. George	Rear Adml. Digby James Williams	90	767	
Firebrand	2	Ocean	Geoe. Ourry	90	750	
Fireship	3	Magnanime	Chas. Wolseley	64	500	
	„	Canada	Sir Geoe. Collier Knt.	74	600	
	„	Repulse	Sir Rigby Dent Kt.	64	500	
	„	Defence	James Cranston	74	600	
	3	Nonsuch	Sir Jas. Wallace Knt.	64	500	Centre Geoe. Darby Esq. Vice Adm. of the White & Commr. in Chief.
Minerva	„	Bellona	Richd. Onslow	74	600	
Alarm	„	Courageux	Rt. Hble. Lord Mulgrave	74	650	
Monsieur	„	Foudroyant	John Jervis	80	700	
Emerald to rept. Signals	1	Britannia	Vice Adm. Darby Rear Adm. Kempenfelt Capn. Bradley	100	884	
Flora	2	Duke	Sir Chas. Douglass, Bt.	90	750	
Harpy	3	Valiant	Saml. G. Goodall	74	650	
Lightning	„	Lyon	Hble. Willm. Cornwallis	64	500	
Fireships	„	Fortitude	Sir R. Bickerton Bt.	74	600	
	3	St. Albans	Chas. Inglis	64	500	Rear Sir J. Ross Bt Rear Adm. of the Red.
	„	Dublin	Archd. Dickson	74	600	
	„	Medway	Harry Harmood	64	500	
Proserpine	2	Formidable	Jno. Cleland	90	750	
Vestal to rept. Signals	1	Royl. George	Rear Adm. Sir J. Ross Capn. Bourmaster	100	867	
Furnace	2	Namur	Herbt. Sawyer	90	750	
Fireship	„	Inflexible	Rond. Cotton	64	500	
	2	Union	Jno. Dalrymple	90	750	
	3	Cumberland	Josh. Peyton	74	600	

No. 3087—*Lord North to the King.*

[? *June*, 1780.]

Lord North having received the inclosed from Lord Sandwich, & having heard from Mr. Jenkinson that His Majesty will not be in Town tomorrow, imagines that there is no way of taking his Majesty's pleasure upon the subject of Lord Sandwich's letter as by troubling his Majesty with a note upon the subject. Lord North humbly begs leave to add, that there seems little room for doubt upon the question & that the proposal of Lord Sandwich appears to point out the only possible measure in the present emergency.

Sion Hill, *Wednesday Eveng.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter Mr. Robinson has just received from the Chancellor.

No. 3088—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

Lord Hillsborough has the honour to send your Majesty the Minutes taken at the Cabinet last night, and if your Majesty is pleased to approve of the Measure orders will be given to the Lords of the Admiralty to carry it immediately into execution.

There is an address to be presented to Your Majesty from Northampton, and as the Members for the Town bring it Lord Hillsborough presumes your Majesty will allow it to be presented at Your Majesty's Levee.

Hanover Square,
25*th June* 1780. $\frac{m}{30}$ *past* 7 A.M.

No. 3089—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 326.

(*under date* 27 *June.*)

Queens House,
June 28*th*, 1780.
$\frac{m}{13}$ *p* 9 A.M.

I applaude much Lord North having got rid of so much business in the House of Commons Yesterday, it was certainly

right to go through the three Debates, or the Session would be spun out to still a more enormous length; was not the line taken by General Conway rather unexpected, it certainly seemed so to Opposition.

No. 3090—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

[? *June*, 1780.]

Mr. Alderman Wooldrige with a Committee of the Ward of Bridge is now at St. James's to attend that address which I shewed Your Majesty Yesterday and which I will present to Your Majesty at the Levee. Mr. Wooldrige whose name is Thomas humbly requests the Honour of Knighthood.

St. James's $\frac{35}{m}$ *p. one* P.M.

No. 3091—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The Debate on the Law bill was not of a Nature to deserve Your Majestys attention. Tho' committed for Tuesday, the general complexion of the House, & the Idea that prevails of Lord Norths present disinclination to this Bill will I dare say decide the fate of it in the Committee.

St. James's *June* 30, 1780.

$\frac{30}{m}$ *p. Seven* P.M.

No. 3092—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson informs me this morning that there has been two Interviews between Lord North & Mr. Fred Mountague; & by what He tells me there appears to be a Disposition to coalesce with the present Administration, Lord North continuing at the Head of the Treasury; They appear to want Mr. Kepple to be at the Head of the Admiralty; Lord North told them at once that this cannot be; They are content to go on with the American War, & will agree that any future Resolution shall be depend [*sic*] on Events; They talk a little of Mr. Burke's Bill, but Mr. Robinson thinks they will be satisfied, if the Contractors Bill is

allowd to pass. The Chancellour was to see Lord North on this Business this morning. I thought it right to apprize your Majesty of all this, as your Majesty will probably see Lord North & the other Ministers, before I shall be able to have an Audience.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

WAR OFFICE,

June 30th [1780] $\frac{m}{35}$ *p.* 10.

No. 3093—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *July 1st* [1780] *five* P.M.

The Letters which I now transmit to your Majesty are upon so delicate a Subject that I shall not presume to prepare any answer untill I have received Your Majesty's Commands. The Business in Question could never have arisen in a more critical moment than the present, if I am not greatly deceived in the opinion I entertain of the Possible Consequences of the Interview at Mohilow.

No. 3094—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

[? *July*, 1780.]

I have the honour to send your Majesty herewith a Copy of the Resolutions, which were agreed to at the General Meeting of the Militia Officers on Saturday & which are refer'd to the Consideration of a Committee, that is to sit on Thursday. I obtain'd this from Mr. Rice.

I add Copies of the three Clauses in the last Militia Law, to which they refer.

In conversation the three following Advantages were mention'd as proper to be given to Subalterns either

More Pay

or Half Pay when the time of Service was over

Or Rank in the Army, if They afterwards come into it according to the Date of their Commissions in the Militia.

But nothing upon these Points was settled.

Monday morn^g
55 m. past 12 o'Clock.

No. 3095—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

July 2d 1780.

Lieutenant Bayne reports that on Wednesday last in the evening he fell in with the Alfred & Proserpine part of Admiral Geary's fleet, which was then in sight; the Captain of the Proserpine recieved on board Mr. Baynes dispatches for the said Admiral, & in passing him said that the French fleet were then off Belleisle to the number of 20 sail of the Line, & advised him to return to Plymouth, as he was of opinion that the Admiral knew of, & was then in pursuit of the French fleet; at nine the Proserpine & the body of the fleet were out of sight, the rear of the fleet with them studdying sails set supposed to be standing after the French fleet with all the sail they could carry; Ushant then bore N.E. 12 or 14 leagues.

While Mr. Bayne was in company with the Alfred the Admiral made a signal by hoisting a blue & white flag at his Mizen peak & firing two guns; which was repeated by a frigate; then the Alfred made all the sail she could to join the headmost ships; & it was at this time that she sent the Proserpine down to Mr. Bayne to recieve his Dispatches.

No. 3096—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I received the Inclosed letter & Papers last night from the Duke of Richmond; which besides the Claims they set up, are in their Style very personally offensive to Lord Amherst; I thought it right to send these Papers in this manner to your Majesty that You may have time to consider them, before I pay my Duty to you: & I submit to your Majesty, whether You would allow me to wait on Your Majesty at the Queen's Palace tomorrow or You would have me wait till your Majesty comes to St. James's on Wednesday. If Lord Amherst is in the right in these Decisions, the best thing that can happen is what the Duke of Richmond proposes, that the Questions should be refer'd to a Board of General Officers I have sent already to Lord Amherst

a Copy of these Papers to prevent Jealousies and that He may have time to consider them.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

ADDISCOMBE PLACE
July 2d. 1780
4 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 3097—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

Lord Hillsborough finds himself under the necessity of sending your Majesty a letter & Inclosures this moment received from the Chairman of the East India Company, as in case Your Majesty shall think proper to comply with the Request, the Time for doing it expires today, according to the Act of Parliament.

ST. JAMES'S
3^{d} *July.* 1780 $\frac{m}{20}$ *past* 4.

No. 3098—*The King to the Lord Chancellor.*

I enclose to the Lord Chancellor a Copy of a letter I have just sent to Lord North, that He may fully see my sentiments, and be the more able to advise what language should be held to Mr. Montagu.

KEW. *July* 3^{d} 1780.

No. 3099—*The King to Lord North.*

KEW. *July* 3^{d} 1780.

Lord North Will not be surprised when I acquaint Him that since I saw Him on Friday, I have been constantly ruminating on the account He then gave me of the two Conversations He had with Mr. Montague, that He may exactly know my Sentiments, I have thought it best to write them down, and for the greater precision to state what I understood to be the result of that Report.

I. That as to the American War it required no discussion

with Mr. Montague's Friends as they did not see how the Troops could at present be recalled from thence, and that the Dependency of America need also not be mentioned as it could not at the present hour be necessary to be taken into consideration.

II. That some Public Measures must be admitted that Mr. Montague's friends might coalesce with reputation such as 1° Mr. Crewes Bill for disfranchising Revenue Officers, 2° the Contractors Bill; and 3° Part if not the whole of Mr. Burke's Bill.

III. That Ld. Rockingham did not want Office, but must be empowered to offer the D. of Richmond and Mr. Fox to be considered on this occasion.

IV. That the Dukes of Portland and Manchester should also be employed and Mr. Thos. Townshend and Mr. Burke; and

V. That no objection would be made to any particular Man remaining in Office but Lord Sandwich, who ought to be Succeeded by Adm. Keppel.

After having given the Chancellor the last Autumn a paper of which L^{d} North has a Copy, there cannot be the smallest doubt but that the evasive Answer on America can by no means answer my expectations, indeed on all Constitutional Points the various parts of Opposition have run so wild, that it is absolutely necessary if any coalition is to be attained, that those who come into Office must give Assurance that they do not mean to be hampered by the Tenets they have held during their Opposition; no Man of Sense can pretend to defend Government and Support the Measures He employed with a view to overthrow it; consequently no material point ought to be veiled over everything must be cleared up, unless they fairly owne that with Opposition they have left those principles or this coalission will be nothing more than a patch, to secure Elections in the New Parliament and then Opposition be strengthened by the Desertion of the apparent Converts.

The second Proposition I fear shews that I am not wrong in suspecting that those Gentlemen wish to bring at least part of their Tenets with them, what I have said before decides my opinion on what ought to be said on this Subject.

The D. of Richmond and Mr. Fox have more avowedly than any others of the Rockingham Party dipped themselves for they have added shortening the Duration of Parliament and the former by a strange conceit changing the whole mode and

Right of Election and consequently altering the Constitution as far as he can ; this added to his Unremitted personal ill conduct to Me, it cannot be expected that I should express any wish of seeing him in my Service, though I hope I am not less forgiving than a Christian ought to be, yet I do feel that kind of Spirit that every Gentleman ought, that persons must attone for their faults before I can attempt to forgive ; the D. of Richmond has not put his foot into my Apartment for above seven or eight years, not content with this He sent Me a Message by Ld. Weymouth, that though He never came near me He as a Lieutenant General asked my leave to go to France.

As to Mr. Fox if any lucrative, not Ministerial Office can be pointed out for Him, provided He will support the Measures of Government, I shall not object to the proposition, He never having had any principle can certainly act as his Interest may guide Him.

The D. of Portland is a man I should with pleasure see in my Service, He used to look towards Ireland if that or a Great Court Office should please Him, I should think it advantageous to my Service, the D. of Manchester in a lucrative office I could not object to ; Mess. Townsend and Burke would be real acquisitions.

As to Lord Sandwich whatever his private failings may be, I know no man so fit for His Department, He has now got out the finest Fleet this Country ever possessed, I cannot think it therefore either Wise or just to remove Him and the more in favour of one who would renew faction and overthrow every means of conducting that Department with propriety.

I must also add what I did not put among the propositions, the hint Mr. Montagu threw out of a Change in the Command of the Army, undoubtedly if I was afresh called on to bring forward a General, I should upon the whole fix upon Lord Amherst as the freest from objection, though I do not think him perfect, yet he is void of the greater faults the others have, besides after the Reconciliation in my familly, if I took another General, I could not avoid taking him from thence.

I now hope I have clearly placed my thoughts before Lord North and he will see I am as anxious as ever for strengthening of Administration ; if it can be attained without a violation of my Principles, I desire he will in the fullest and most confidential

manner talk over the whole with the Chancellor whose Tallents and Zeal for my Service I can depend upon, and who has a clearness of conception and firmness that makes him willing to go to the bottom of every question, such a language as he shall think proper to be held, will I am certain meet with my Approbation.

Draft and two fair copies, in the King's handwriting.

No. 3100.

MINUTES OF CONVERSATION TO BE HELD WITH MR. M.

Printed. Donne II. 327.

[In Lord North's handwriting.]

[*July*, 1780.]

It may perhaps be right, before any arrangement is concluded, for his Majesty to see some of Mr. M's friends, but his Majesty must know pretty exactly the sentiments of Mr. M's friends, before any such conference.

No difficulty will be made to admitting the D. of Portland, the D. of Manchester, Mr. Townshend, Mr. Burke & Mr. Fox, but, if any arrangement should take place, Lord North would advise that Mr. Fox should, at first, be proposed for an office that would not introduce him into the closet immediately.

In respect to the D. of Richmond, Lord North has lately heard that the K. imagines that the D. of Richmond has indirectly sent to him a message purporting that he will not shew any respect to His Majesty by paying his duty at St. James's, in which he is confirm'd by the D's absence for seven years except an annual visit professedly to pay his duty to the Queen. This, with many other circumstances of the D.'s conduct which His Majesty considers as meant personally to affront him, raises no small difficulty with respect to his Grace. Ld. N. conceives that this prejudice must be removed by the Duke's conduct in some manner or other before he can be proposed for any considerable office under the Crown.

No. 3101—*Memorandum by Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 328.

[*July*, 1780.]

Would Mr. M[ontague]s friends insist that it is expedient or necessary rather to relinquish the attempt of recovering the Dependence of the Colonies of America than to continue the War for another campaign ?

Is the nomination of Mr. Keppell to the place of first Lord of the Admiralty in the room of Lord Sandwich an essential condition of the accession of Mr. M——s friends to Government ?

Are the signing of Mr. Crewe's & the contractor's Bills, & a part of Mr. Burke's Bill, essential conditions ?

If they are What part of Mr. Burke's Bill ?

Is Ld. North to remain at the head of the Treasury ?

I put these questions in order to bring this business more to a point than it is at present. It is impossible to finish this arrangement without an conference between his Majesty and some of Mr. M[ontague]s friends, but his Maj^{y} must know pretty exactly what are the sentiments of Mr. M——s friends before he consents to such a conference.

Lord N[orth] thinks there will be no objection to the D. of Northum[berland] & Manchester, Mr. Johnstone, Mr. Burke & Mr. Fox but he finds that the King conceives that he has received a message from the D. of Richmond either directly or indirectly informing him that he will not pay his duty at Court to his Majesty, and that he makes his anniversary visit to the Queen. Lord N. conceives that this prejudice will be difficult to remove unless by some conduct of the D. of Richmond which may wipe off what the K. has conceived to have been meant as a personal affront.

Lord North believes the K. will not consent to remove Ld. Sandwich, & to put the fleet into the hands of Mr. Keppell.

If any arrangement should take place Lord N. would desire that Mr. Fox should at first be proposed for an office that would not introduce him to the closet immediately.

Draft, with corrections by another hand in pencil.

No. 3102—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I presume to send Your Majesty herewith some papers, Copies of which I mean to give to Lord Stormont, that He may be thereby enabled to explain to the Cabinet the Business relating to the Duke of Richmond and to bring it, if possible, to a conclusion; Lord Amherst is represented to me to be in a state of Dissatisfaction; and I can think of nothing, but what is contained in these papers that is likely to get His Lordship out of the present Difficulty, or to put an end to this Business.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

WAR OFFICE,
July 8th [1780]. ½ *past* 12.

No. 3103—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S. *July* 9, 1780.
$\frac{33}{M}$ *p One* P.M.

The last private Letter from Sir J. Yorke seems so material that I have just wrote to Ld. North to see Him upon it tomorrow. I apprehend that it is essential to Your Majesty's service that this business should be followed up. Nor tho' it may be doubtful whether it will lead to any important Discovery, yet I think a Trial ought to be made.

No. 3104—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

Lord Hillsborough has the honour to send to Your Majesty a Letter he received yesterday from the Recorder, with a List of the intended Executions. A second Petition has been delivered from the Mother of the Boy Roberts, but as it contains nothing but an Affidavit that one of the Evidences who upon the Tryal said he was a Tobacconist was not so but a Journeyman Sadler, Lord Hillsborough does not give Your Majesty the trouble of reading it. Your Majesty will observe that the Recorder will be ready to make his Report on Wednesday, and the Summonses are sent pursuant to Your Majesty's Orders.

ST. JAMES'S, 10*th July*, 1780.
$\frac{30}{M}$ *past* 12.

No. 3105—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *July 10th*, 1780.
$\frac{13}{M}$ *p. Three* P.M.

I thought it necessary to delay the Messenger till I could give Your Majesty an account of a Conference with Monsr. Simolin whom I have just seen by appointment. He allowed me to assist my memory by taking a copy of what he read to me. My answer was very polite but short, that He must be sensible that I could make no Reply without taking Your Majestys Pleasure. To his Genl. assurances of Her Impl. Majesty's Friendship I answered in the same General Terms.

It will be highly necessary to assemble a Cabinet to frame the Project of an answer to be submitted to Your Majesty. I hope to get one on Wednesday next.

The answer to Sir J. Yorkes private letter cannot be drawn until I have seen Ld. North. Before I received Your Majesty's Commands I was aware of the impossibility of giving such a man as this Montague rank in the Army.

The Empresses Ordonnance was not delivered to me ministerially. Your Majesty will see that the second article is in direct violation of the Law of Nations.

No. 3106—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

Having thought of another Method of settling the Business to which the Duke of Richmonds letter has given birth, I take the Liberty of sending Your Majesty the Draught of a Letter formed upon that Idea, that Your Majesty may have time to consider it and turn it in your thoughts before I pay my duty to you tomorrow, when it will I presume, be proper to bring this business to some decision or other. The Judge Advocate, as well as myself think this last Method the best, Lord Amherst disapproves of it & I cannot get Him to decide any thing. I humbly submit to Your Majesty whether you had not better see me tomorrow before the Levee, that I may apprize your Majesty of all that has passed & thereby enable You to form your Decision.

I have not troubled your Majesty with any of the Information I have learnt of what has passed in the Conference with M^r^ Montague, as I conclude You have received a full Account of the whole from Lord North; I cannot refrain from sending the Inclosed Letter from M^r^ Robinson, which contains a curious Anecdote.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfyll Subject C. JENKINSON.

WAR OFFICE
July 11^th^ 1780
10 *o'Clock.*

Since I wrote the above, the Adjutant General has been with me to say that His Brother will consent to a Reference according to the first Idea & will recommend it to your Majesty.

No. 3107—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The Letter now submitted to Your Majesty contains the substance of what appeared most advisable to L^d^ North & L^d^ Stormont with respect to a Business of too important a Nature not to claim the utmost attention, tho there may not be any great prospect of success.

The Conversation with L^d^ North which did not take place so soon as I expected from unavoidable Interruptions, forced me to detain the Messenger till this late hour.

S^T^ JAMES *July* 11^th^ [1780]
$\frac{20}{m}$ *p four* P.M.

No. 3108—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has just seen Lord Weymouth: He perfectly agrees as to the necessity of immediate reprisals mention'd by His Majesty, but he thinks we ought to have a meeting of the Cabinet to consider on the propriety of a Formal declaration of War on Monday. No time will be lost, as this will not retard the operations of our Ships. L^d^ North is going to dine with Lord Sandwich, & will speak to him about the best method of encouraging privateers, & the propriety of granting immediately

Letters of Marque. Perhaps a public Declaration of War will be useful in this respect, as well as the most just, honourable & dignified method of proceeding.

Bushy Park. *July* 17 [1780]. $\frac{1}{2}$ p^t 2. p.m.

No. 3109—*The King to Lord North.*

Windsor Castle *July* 17th 1780.

$\frac{m}{30}$ p^t 9. p.m.

The Account Lord North has sent Me of the probability of the soon Arrival of the Jamaica Fleet is very material; the success of the Troops at S^t Juan on the Spanish Main is certainly very fortunate if as Lord North very properly observes it does not make the love of home make Jamaica be too much weakened of Land forces to pursue conquests in those Rich Regions. The Recorder staid till half hour past five on Friday before He concluded his Report; I am obliged to Lord North for his discression in going away, for I own I was most thoroughly fatigued.

No. 3110.

Ships and Vessels under the Command of Adm. Sir Geo. Bridges Rodney Bart. 23rd July 1780.

[A list of thirty-six vessels, with their commanders and sundry other details in seventeen parallel columns, in the King's handwriting.]

No. 3111—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending to His Majesty the inclosed most extraordinary letter from M. de Maurepas to M^r Forth: It is certainly genuine, &, notwithstanding the very deceitful character of the Writer, appears to have in some parts, a degree of sincerity at least, one does not see the occasion for all those oaths, & asseverations, if the party is not at all inclined

to Peace, nor indeed, does there appear much occasion for the letter itself but upon the supposition of his wishing an end to the War, at least while he was writing the letter. M^r^ Forth should go over or excuse himself soon, but Lord North did not desire to give him his opinion without having spoken to the Secretaries of State, but Lord Stormont's absence at Kens-Wood, & Lord Hillsborough's distress at the great family misfortune that happen'd to him this morning have prevented Lord North from seeing either of them.

Bushy Park *Sa^ty^ July* 29 [1780].

No. 3112—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

The State of extreme Affliction Lord Hillsborough is under from the sudden Loss of poor Lady Hillsborough who died this morning will he hopes excuse him to your Majesty for not sending the Draughts for Madrid as he intended, but he hopes to be able to send them in time to yr Majesty for your approbation so that the Messenger may go on Tuesday next, which will be the loss of one day only—Lord Hillsborough prays your Majesty to allow him a few days, so far as to recover himself sufficiently to appear before your Majesty.

Hanover Square
29^th^ *July* 1780

No. 3113—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 330.

Windsor Castle *July* 30^th^ 1780.

The letter from M. de Maurepas is certainly very extraordinary and were I not too well acquainted with the Duplicity of his conduct, I should suppose his life almost depended on the success of his proposal; but at least it makes me think that when he wrote the letter he had some very weighty reason to wish for Peace, which makes me a little more hopeful that Spain is resolved to end the War, and that M. de Maurepas must also do the Same, or by drawing on a Negociation at Paris put clogs in

the way of bringing Matters in Spain to a desirable conclusion; one circumstance at least is agreable that America cannot make part of any Proposition Forth might be entrusted to communicate. On the whole I desire Lord North will see L^d^ Stormont before any answer is given to M^r^ Forth (whom L^d^ North knows I always think a very dubious Negociator) and if that able Negociator does not see from his perfect knowledge of Maurepas that we can be Drawn into any difficulties by Forths Journey, I shall not object to it; but should certainly to Forth's having any instructions but to hear what the Minister has to say.

I am much grieved for L^d^ Hillsborough, who certainly should also have been made acquainted with this if it were not kinder in his present distress to leave him in quiet; if it goes on he will of course hereafter be acquainted with the whole.

I hope L^d^ North has wrote to the Chancellor if He has any wish for promoting any one to the Office of Chief Justice of Chester, or that He will not delay it longer, for the Chancellor is to be with Me on Wednesday to fix the Matter; if Lord North presses him civilly for Ambles I should think he would acquiesce, though he thinks M^r^ Kenion would clearly be the most respectable Appointment.

No. 3114—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

Lord Hillsborough is not able to find words to express to Your Majesty his dutyfull and gratefull Sense of Your Majesty's great Goodness and Condescension to him. He is most humbly thankfull for the leave your Majesty is pleased to allow him to withdraw himself for a short time. He is much indisposed at present, but hopes to be able to pay his Duty to Your Majesty on Wednesday or Thursday next. He has the Honour to lay before Your Majesty the Draughts to M^r^ Cumberland, & tho' the Situation he is in may have prevented them from being as correct as he could wish he flatters Himself Your Majesty will not disapprove of them.

Stratford Place.
August 2^d^ 1780.

No. 3115.

Minute of Cabinet.

Copy. at Ld. Amherst's August 3d. 1780

Present

Ld. President.
Ld. Privy Seal.
Ld. Sandwich
Ld. G. Germain
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont

Agreed that it is expedient to take the Opinion of the Kings Law Officers to know whether it be legal for any of his Majesty's Subjects to assemble in Bodies of Ten or more with Muskets or other arms in order to learn Military Exercise & Discipline without any authority from His Majesty so to do, tho the same be done under Pretence of being prepared to assist the Civil Power; and in case It be not legal, what are the shortest and most efficacious steps to be taken by Law to prevent It.

Declaration deliver'd this day to Ld. Stormont by Baron Necker read, and the answer prepared by Ld. Stormont read and approved.

Agreed that His Majesty be advised to approve the Report of a Board of General Officers upon the Question put to them by His Majesty's order & by the Royal Warrant.

Agreed to approve the plan of an Expedition to the South Seas by the way of India connected with the East India Company. Two thousand Land Forces to be employed on this Expedition consisting of Col. Humberston & Col. Fullartons Regiments which are to be doubled if They can raise the Men so as to be ready to embark before the end of October. If They are not sure of raising the Men in the given Time other Means to be taken for raising them.

A 64 Gun Ship and a frigate of 32 to be employed upon this Expedition.

No. 3116—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North was prevented by a Council & by various interruptions from different visitors from paying his duty at St.

James's yesterday before his Majesty was set out for the country ; He therefore begs leave to trouble his Majesty with the inclosed warrants, accompanied by two letters of intelligence the first from Mr. Toole more to be commended for its truth than its novelty, & the other from Mr. Morice.

Saturday. Aug. 5. 1780.

No. 3117—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending to His Majesty two Warrants, which Mr. Robinson, who has met Lord North here, has this moment put into his hand, & which he says, require immediate signature, if approved by his Majesty. The Warrant to Mr. O'Hara is in part of a demand which has been some time before the Treasury but which it is very difficult to settle. Mr. O'Hara is in the utmost distress, & is order'd to set out tomorrow for Portsmouth in order to embark for North America. He pleads hard for an advance without which he declares that he is ruined. How his accounts may upon examination turn out, is uncertain, but if they are proved within 12 or £1300 This advance will be no injury to the Public.

Mr. Ellis's. Twickenham. *Aug.* 5. 1780.
½ *pt.* 8 P.M.

No. 3118.

Minute of Cabinet.

Copy. at Ld. Sandwich's. August 10. 1780

Present.

Ld. Privy Seal.
Ld. Sandwich.
Ld. G. Germain.
Ld. North.
Ld. Amherst.
Ld. Stormont.

Agreed that it be recommended to His Majesty that orders be sent to Admiral Drake in the Downs to be particularly attentive to intercept all Dutch Ships laden with Counterband

Goods or with Effects belonging to the Enemies of this Kingdom, whether with or without convoy, and that the Lords of the Admiralty give the proper Directions for reinforcing His Squadron as far as they think it necessary for the execution of this important service.

Agreed that Col. Humberston and Col. Fullarton be directed to augment their Regiments to a thousand Men each with the utmost expedition. The Manner of raising them to be by five companies of 100 Men each for each Regiment.

It being agitated whether the order given in Council on the 7th of June should now be revoked and also the order given by Lord Amherst of the same date in consequence thereof, It was agreed that such Revocation would be improper.

No. 3119—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *August* 15. 1780.
$\frac{30}{m}$ P.M.

It is not necessary to trouble your Majesty with a more particular account of what passed with St. Valier than what is contained in my private Letter to Sr. J. Yorke He seems a fair honorable man, with a sufficient Degree of General Political Knowledge, but tho' modest in His Manner he carries with Him those scales in which almost Every Frenchman weighs his own abilities. He might perhaps be employed to good purpose here as an occasional assistant to draw up Memorials &c. if he belonged to any other country. But circumstanced as He is He never could rise above suspicion and that Inconvenience would more than overballance any advantage that could be drawn from Him.

As Your Majesty received His Memorials which he considers as Treasures of Political & Military Knowledge, He may perhaps have some claim upon Your Majestys Generosity for a small Reward, especially as He is in Real Distress. I can have no doubt of that from the agonies of Despair he was in when he found that I would not take upon Me to give him any Hopes whatever. I forgot to deliver to Your Majesty the copy of the last Minute.

I was extremely mortified that an Indisposition prevented me from paying my Duty to Your Majesty on Saturday.

No. 3120.

Minute of Cabinet.

Copy. at Ld. Dartmouth's. August 18. 1780

Present.

Ld. Privy Seal.
Ld. Sandwich.
Ld. Hillsborough.
Ld. G. Germain
Ld. North
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont.

Agreed that as Mr. Montcrieff has done such signal service during the Siege of Charles Town and has been so strongly recommended by Sr. Henry Clinton for some distinguished mark of His Majesty's favour it be humbly submitted to His Majesty that it is the opinion of this Meeting that it will be highly conducive to the Public Service that Mr. Montcrieff do receive an immediate and distinguished Mark of His Majesty's approbation.

No. 3121—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty the letters he mentioned this morning which he takes the liberty of accompanying with a note of the manner & dates of the Dissolution & meeting of Parliament in 1774 by which his Majesty will see that the Dissolution may be on the first of September, & the meeting on the 31st of October. Mr. Robinson seems inclined to the first of September, as it will give him two more days for notices round the Kingdom.

Lord North has the honour of his Majesty's commands this morning to which he will give immediate attention and obedience.

Monday. Aug. 21 [1780].

No. 3122.

List of Admiral Gearys Fleet.

Admiralty Office } A List of His Majesty's Ships and Vessels
25*th August* 1780 } under the command of Admiral Geary.

[A list of 54 vessels, 3 of 100, 8 of 90, 3 of 80, 14 of 74, 2 of 70, and 4 of 64 guns; the remainder smaller craft.]

No. 3123—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty. *Aug.* 28*th.* 1780

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the letters recieved Yesterday from Admiral Geary, in consequence he is ordered to detach Admiral Digby for a week, & to proceed with the remainder of his fleet into Torbay, during which time we shall be able to supply what men he wants, and thereby enable him to proceed to sea with the whole, the moment the Rear Admiral rejoins him in Torbay.

This morning an unpleasant letter is recieved from Admiral Geary mentioning his inability to proceed on the present cruize on account of illness; it is therefore proposed, provided it meets with your Majesty's approbation, to give him a short leave of absence as desired, & direct him to send out Vice Admiral Barrington in the execution of the above-mentioned orders; and Ld. Sandwich thinks it might be proper to order Admiral Evans to go to sea in the Victory during Mr. Geary's absence, which would leave the fleet with the same number of flag officers as before.

Lord Sandwich encloses the letter he has recieved from Admiral Darby, who he thinks will make a very good Lord of the Admiralty.

Your Majesty will allso find private letters from Sir John Ross, and Admiral Geary.

No. 3124—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has, in obedience to his Majesty's Commands, directed an exact enquiry to be made into the savings that can

be made in the Civil List expences so as to afford the means of an Establishment for his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales without rendering it necessary to apply to Parliament. He is sorry to say that he has not yet received returns sufficient to direct his judgement, but he expects them soon, & in the mean while begs leave to receive his Majesty's pleasure upon the following points.

Whether the Prince is to live separately from his Majesty, & to keep a distinct Household, particularly, whether it is his Majesty's pleasure that he should have Clerks of the Green Cloth ? Lord North humbly asks the latter part of the Question because, in such case, the Vacancies of Two Clerks to his Majesty need not be fill'd up, but be appointed to his Royal Highness.

Another question that Lord North humbly submits to his Majesty is, Whether it is his Majesty's intention that the Offices of Governor, Sub-Governor, Preceptor & Sub-Preceptor should cease, & a Groom of the Stole, Master of the Horse, Treasurer & Secretary be appointed ? Lord North's reason for presuming to ask this question is That he may know in general the plan of the Establishment, & judge of the best method of providing for it.

Lord North does not presume to advise an answer in writing upon these points, but as his Majesty's memory is much better than Lord North's, He suggests these questions at present that he may receive his Majesty's pleasure upon them when he next pays his duty at St. James, & it is very probable Lord North might forget this business amidst the several points which he will have to lay before his Majesty.

Sion Hill. *Aug.* 29. 1780.

No. 3125—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Your Majesty will observe by Admiral Barrington's letter that he is determined to throw every difficulty he can in our way, & to pursue what is clear to be his present purpose, the bringing Admiral Keppell into the command of the fleet.

Lord Sandwich dare not venture in this situation to take any step till he knows your Majesty's pleasure ; the thing that at present occurs to him as the most adviseable, is to let Mr. Barrington strike his flag & come on shore, and send the fleet

out under the command of Admiral Darby, who is now at Plymouth, & ready to go on board his ship the moment she arrives.

Lord Sandwich has written to Ld. North upon this subject, & if your Majesty thinks proper, your pleasure may be signified thro' his channel to Mr. Stephens by which no time will be lost.

HINCHINGBROOK.
Aug. 30*th.* 1780.

No. 3126—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 331.

WINDSOR CASTLE *Aug*^{t} 30th 1780.

Lord North has very properly, sent to Me Lord Sandwich's letter concerning V. Ad. Barrington's strange proceeding of declining to go out with the Fleet as his Senior Officer is obliged from health to stay this cruize on Shore.

Lord North will therefore acquaint M^{r} Stephens that V. Ad. Barrington may have leave to come on Shore and that V. Ad. Darby must command, and that notice must be sent to Him of this to Plymouth ; Lord North is the best judge whether V. Ad. Darby can immediately come to Spithead.

The Chancellor is always so cautious that it certainly retards business ; but I trust M^{r} Robinson's activity will arrange matters so for him that no delay can now arise.

No. 3127—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North begs his Majestys pardon for troubling his Majesty with these warrants, but they have been put into Lord Norths hand, since he was at Court. The warrant transferring M^{r} Nesbitt's Pension must be signed immediately as he intends to offer himself as Candidate for Winchelsea. M^{r} Nesbitt's Uncle purchased the pension so that it is a very reasonable request in him to have it transferred & he is likely to be a very good friend in the H^{s} of Commons.

Sept^{r} 1. 1780.

No. 3128—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North had the honour of receiving his Majesty's commands on Saturday morning, & gave immediate directions in consequence to Mr Jackson from whom he has since heard that V. Admiral Darby has answer'd the first order he recieved with a very respectful acknowledgement & with the most ready & prompt obedience. He has likewise been inform'd that Lord Sandwich has sent over to his Majesty Draughts of two orders for V. Admiral Barrington for his Majesty's choice, & that his Majesty would, probably, signify his pleasure through Lord North. As Lord North has ever since Sunday morning been at Mr Robinson's at Sion Hill, & is afraid that some orders of his Majesty may have missed him, but trusts that no delay of any consequence will have happened [*sic*].

Upon considering all that can be said for & against Mr Brudenell's wish for a peerage. The principal objection appears to be, that he has no estate at present, & that he seeks for this dignity purely to avoid the trouble & fatigue of attending the Ho of Commons, on the other [hand] Mr Brudenell is a man of a very noble family, very polite manners, much respected & generally belov'd: His Elder & his younger Brethren are both Peers, He will, probably, not have any progeny, & he will certainly succeed to a Peerage, so that this creation will add to the Ho of Lords for a very short time. If your Majesty consents to this promotion. The Creation of Peers will be as follows.

1. Ld Talbot with reversion to Lady Cecil Rice.
2. Lord Gage.
3. Mr Fitzroy.
4. Mr Brudenell.
5. Sr William Bagot.
6. Sr William de Grey.
7. Mr Herbert.

If it is his Majesty's pleasure, Lord North will signify his Majesty's gracious intentions to Mr Brudenell, Lord Talbot, & Lady Cecil Rice. The part which Lord Talbot has often taken in Parliament was calculated to do more mischief to Government than perhaps in the event it did, & if he should receive this favour

through any but a Ministerial channell it will countenance the distinctions he always endeavours to set up between the King & the Ministers, which, however, parliamentary & convenient for the opposers of Administration, are in the mouth of the placemen of the most pernicious consequence to the weight & credit of government. Lord North is, however, much afraid that his Lordship has not the least idea of giving up his existing place for a reversionary peerage, at least, so it appear'd, when the transaction was set on foot for accomodating Lord Suffolk Though the latter had been led by M^{r} Rice's conversations, on to a notion that Lord Talbot would give up his place to secure the peerage to his family. It turned out, however, upon examination that an equivalent for the place was expected in addition to the Honour, & all his Lordship's readiness to accomodate amounted to nothing more than that he was ready to exchange what he had for something better. If he could now be induced to quit his White Staff it might be convenient but even if he should not, the reversionary peerage to his family will meet with general approbation.

Lord North has the honour to subjoin the proposed arrange ments for His Majesty's approbation.

Lords of Bedchamber ..... { Lord Boston / Lord Onslow

Treasurer of Household ..... Lord Cranburn

Comptroller of ditto ..... Lord Lisburn

Lords of Adm^{y} ..... { Lord Robert Spencer / M^{r} Grenville ..... / V. Adm. Darby .... } { If Lord Robert declines, M^{r} Jolliffe)

L^{ds} of Trade ..... { 2. M^{r} Sloane / 3. M^{r} Adam / 4. M^{r} Langlais / 1. L^{d} Lewisham .. If L^{d} R. Spencer & M^{r} Eden vacate).

Clerks of the Green Cloth .... { S^{r} W^{m} Gordon. / M^{r} Lovel Stanhope.

Commissary of Musters .....Mr Bowlby, in Parliament.
Comptroller of Army Accts ....Mr D'Oyly.
Ordnances
Storekeeper .....Mr Strachey.
Clerk of Deliveries .....Mr Kenrick.

Mr Eden, in great uneasiness, has sent to decline the Secretaryship of Ireland, & to quit the Board of Trade.

Mr Soame Jenyns leaves Parliament & must not continue at the Board. Perhaps His Majesty may be applied to for some provision till a place falls which he may hold.

It is not yet certain whether Lord Rob. Spencer wishes to be removed to the Admiralty. If He does not, Mr Jollyffe may be a Lord of the Admy, & Lord Lewisham must wait for another vacancy before he is brought into place.

Mr Kenrick stands for a Borough at this Election by which he will vacate a seat at the Stamp Office. It is proposed to bring him to the Board of Ordnance in consequence of the vacancy made by Mr Langlais.

Lord North has omitted in his List Four Gentlemen.
Receiver Genl of Stamp duties.....Mr Ross
Treasurer of Ordnance.....Mr Combe
Lords of Treasy .....{Sr Rich. Sutton / Mr Buller.

Lord North is much concerned that he can not have a more useful Speaker than Mr Buller, & more so that Mr Eden lays such a stress upon being a short time at the Treasy: Lord North would certainly have prefer'd Mr Eden for the utility of his assistance at the Treasury, but the appointing him for a few days would be so singular perhaps, so offensive, & certainly so useless to him that he is astonish'd to find Mr Eden sacrificing to that consideration a situation so great, so honourable, & so advantageous as the post of Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

The account that is come to England from Mr d'Anandos at Paris of the ships taken in the convoy is said to be as follows.

4 E. India Ships.
24 W. India Ships.

[1] 17 Transports.
½ Million of Dollars in Specie.

Lord North intends to set out from Sion Hill about noon for Wroxten, when he will be ready to receive his Majesty's Commands.

Sion Hill. *Sept.* 5. 1780.

P.S. Lord North has received answers to all the letters he wrote concerning the peerages except from S^r^ W^m^ Bagot & M^r^ Fitzroy. The distance accounts for the former, but he is afraid that his letter to M^r^ Fitzroy may have miscarried.

No. 3129—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has just received the honour of his Majestys commands. He had proposed to set out on Sunday for this place, but found so much business to be done that he was detained at Sion Hill till Tuesday afternoon, He arrived here yesterday, & hopes to be elected tomorrow, & on Monday next will return to London, or sooner if it will be of any service.

Lord North meant in his note to submit L^d^ Talbot's & M^r^ Brudenell's Peerages to his Majesty's consideration. To the others He had already given notice Upon those two, He had taken no decisive step. With respect to the manner of notifying L^d^ Talbot's peerage to him, Lord North suggested it, for his Majesty's consideration; It occur'd to him that it might be the best for his Majesty's service, which is the point that should be had in view; Lord North had no idea of making an attach'd friend of Lord Talbot, which would be a point most difficult to accomplish, and the object is certainly not among those which Lord North has much at heart. Lord North presumed to offer his advice solely with a view to what appear'd to him for His Majesty's service, &, with that purpose, He will execute the commands he has received from his Majesty.

As the persons, whom his Majesty designs to honour with Peerages are now dispersed, & engaged in many different

[1] These must be West India men with part of Genl Rainsford's Regiment on Board.

This account may not be correct, but it seems as if it might not be far from the Truth: If it is true, 1 E. Indiamen, & 11 other ships have escaped.

businesses, Lord North believes that tomorrow sevennight will be a convenient day to appoint them to attend at S^{t} James's & to kiss his Majesty's hand.

The reason of omitting M^{r} Pitt's place in the arrangement was, that M^{r} Robinson has for some time past, had a view to succeed some time or other to that office, & he appear'd much hurt that there had been a thought of including it in the present arrangement. Why he has taken such a fancy for that office Lord North can not tell, but he was sure that his Majesty would consider what he has now mentioned as a sufficient reason for deferring any measure concerning it. When M^{r} Robinson has a moment to spare, Lord North will enter with him fully upon this subject.

Lord North is certainly of opinion that M^{r} Eden ought to go to Ireland, which is the best thing possible for him, & the most suited to his talents & situation, & that he ought not to have press'd for an alteration in that plan which was formed upon the supposition that he would go thither, but Lord North very much doubts whether, as things are now circumstanced he will embark in the Irish Secretaryship. Lord North has received a letter from him which does by no means look that way.

Wroxten. *Sept.* 7th 1780.

No. 3130—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

S^{T} James's. *Sept. 7th.* 1780.

I would not avail myself of Your Majesty's most gracious Permission lest Business should accumulate too much during my absence.

I have this moment seen *Count Rice* who came to inform me that he has brought a Letter for Your Majesty from the King of Sweden who according to Ct. Rice's Report treated Him with the greatest Confidence. I told him that he could not deliver this Letter to Your Majesty neither could I receive it without Your orders as there was no copy. I learnt in the course of our Conversation that the King of Sweden had trusted Mr. Rice with the General contents of this letter, it is full of compliment and expressions of friendship and contains an offer of His Mediation. I will not allow myself to make any observation

upon this very singular mode of negotiation but wait Your Majestys orders if I am to receive and transmit the Letter to you. The not receiving it might perhaps appear a harsh Measure.

No. 3131—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

S^{T} James's *Sept^{r}* 8 1780.

In obedience to Your Majesty's Commands I send the Letter from the King of Sweden, Count Rice says that His Swedish Majesty will be much grieved and disappointed if the answer is not transmitted through the same channel as the King of Sweden has taken this step witht. the Privity of any of His Ministers. Upon this Subject I gave Ct. Rice no answer whatever. by what I could collect from his conversation, The King of Sweden has acquainted The Court of France with his Intention of making this offer w^{ch} seems a strong additional Reason for declining it.

May I presume to beg Your Majesty will be pleased to sign the Ratification of the article with Denmark at the Bottom of the Instrument which is the usual Place of Signature, and permit that at the Top to be erazed.

Your Majesty's gracious attention to the Interests of the House of Lords will I am persuaded be of essential advantage to Y^{r} Service, as it is there where the great support of Government should naturally lie. I am much inclined to S^{r} J Yorke's opinion that *Montague* has really a good deal to say, if it were possible to bring Him to disclose it.

I have endeavoured to remedy immediately an accidental delay in the Expedition of M^{r} Macdonals appointment as one of the Welsh Judges It is *essential* to Him as he assures me that his appointment should precede the Election which will come on upon Tuesday next. If the Instrument is sent to my office Y^{r} Majesty will find it in this Box.

No. 3132—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Hinchingbrook *Sept.* 8th 1780.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to enclose to Your Majesty the answer he has received from Admiral Drake.

Lord Mulgrave who is just returned from London says that

every one he saw in the two days he has been there, highly blames Admiral Barringtons conduct.

It at first occurred to L^d^ Sandwich that the Barfleur was the properest ship for Admiral Drake to hoist his flag in, but on consideration he thought that it might not be so adviseable to put the Admiral who is perfectly well disposed, into a ship made up of officers totally devoted to his predecessor ; and perhaps it may not be inadviseable to send the Barfleur to the West Indies.

L^d^ Mulgrave says that upon looking into the books of that office there does not appear to be any objection to Captain Kempenfelts serving as first Captain to Vice Admiral Darby, Lord Sandwich has therefore written the proper letters to bring that about, concluding it to be a measure that would meet with Your Majesty's approbation.

No. 3133—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

S^T^ James's *Sept.* 9. 1780

The singular style of the King of Swedens Letter makes the answer a Matter of some Difficulty. In the Draught which is submitted to Your Majesty I have endeavoured to keep clear of that familiarity, which I thought was to be avoided, without making it a formal official Letter which he would have thought a cold Return. I conceived that Your Majestys Intention was to give an absolute Negative to the offer, but to make the Refusal handsome and dignified in the Manner.

I apprehend that Your Majestys Intention is to send the answer through the same channel through which the Letter was brought, as otherwise it will be difficult to keep the secret.

No. 3134—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Hinchingbrook *Sept.* 10^th^ 1780

That Your Majesty may be fully informed of the state of things in the West Indies, L^d^ Sandwich has the honour to send the private letter he has received from Sir George Rodney.

He allso takes the liberty to add a letter from L^d^ Mulgrave.

The importance of Sir George Rodneys dispatches, and the necessity of immediate measures being taken in consequence of

them, will occasion Lord Sandwich's return to town on Tuesday, in order to receive Your Majestys commands on Wednesday. Your Majesty will not be surprized, after what has passed, at Admiral Gearys having desired on account of his health to quit the command of the Western Squadron ; but it is to be hoped it is in as good hands under Admiral Darby.

No. 3135.

SHIPS PROPOSED FOR THE WEST INDIES.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE
13th Septr 1780

Ten of these Ships to go to the West Indies.

Guns.	Ships Names	Captains
		2
90	Barfleur	Bery. Hill
80	Foudroyant	John Jervis
74	Monarch	Adam Duncan
—	St Albans	Charles Wolesley
—	Canada	Sir Geo. Collier
—	Invincible	Charles Saxton
—	Marlborough	Taylor Penny
70	Monarca	John Gell
—	Princessa	Sir Thos Rich
64	Prince William	Stair Douglas
—	Belliqueux	Thos Fitzherbert
60	Panther	John Hervey.

4 Ships only to be in Portsmouth Harbour at a time, and 2 at Plymouth, 'til the Torbay is out of the Dock, then 4—as we shall have 2 Docks clear at each Port.

The Navy Board will propose at a proper time others to succeed them, & 'til that time the remaining Ships to continue ready for Sea at Spithead.

Ships that want the least Repair to be taken in hand first & their Bottoms covered with Copper.

Those wanting the most repair to succeed the Monmouth in the Double Dock at Portsmouth, the Kent at Plymouth, & St Albans at Chatham.

The Nonsuch to come to Chatham in preference to the S^{t} Albans, as she wants less repair, the S^{t} Albans to follow in three Weeks.

To begin with the two Deck Ships, so as to have a serviceable winter Squadron, in case they should be wanted for Active Service.

All the Frigates to be sent to the Eastward when wanting a considerable repair, so as not to interfere with the line of Battle Ships.

No. 3136.

Minute of Cabinet.

Copy.

at L^{d} George Germains Sept, 14. 1780.

Present.

L^{d} Privy Seal
L^{d} Sandwich
L^{d} Hillsborough
L^{d} George Germain
L^{d} North
L^{d} Amherst
L^{d} Stormont

Agreed that five Ships of the Line be ordered to fit immediately for Foreign Service and if they cannot be found by any other Means that they be taken from the Fleet now under the Command of Vice Admiral Darby.

Agreed that peremptory orders be sent to Admiral Arbuthnot that when the Winter Season sets in, and Ships of the line can no longer act upon the American Coast he detach Admiral Graves with Five Sail of the Line at least, to join S^{r} George Rodney. These orders to be executed even if the French fleet under Mns^{r} Ternay should winter in North America.

Information to be sent Admiral Arbuthnot at the same time with these orders that He will be reinforced in the Spring.

Agreed that as the occasion of the order of the 7th of June in obedience to an order of the King in Council has ceased it be recommended to His Majesty that the aforesaid order be no longer in Force.

No. 3137—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Sept.* 15*th* 1780.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to Your Majesty the lists as commanded yesterday.

It was agreed at the Cabinet that L^{d} Sandwich should write to Sir Samuel Hood to know whither in case there was a promotion of Admirals he would chuse to take his flag, & proceed immediately to the West Indies.

It was allso agreed to send five sail of the Line directly, taking some of them from Admiral Darby's fleet, to reinforce Sir George Rodney, and to send orders to Admiral Arbuthnot to detach Admiral Graves with five sail of the Line to the West Indies even if Ternay should winter in America.

Since writing what is on the other side, the enclosed letters are received from L^{d} Shuldham giving an account of the Arrival of the Boyne at Plymouth, and allso intelligence of an enemies fleet which upon consulting with L^{d} North & the comptroller of the Navy we agree must be an outward bound Convoy, therefore have not thought adviseable to alter the arrangement for sending five ships immediately to the West Indies; the ships fixed on for this service are

Princessa
Alfred
Monarch
Monarca
Prince William.

No. 3138—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for his Majesty's perusal several letters of importance; Lord North has had some by him for a few days, but during the hurry of the last week had not time to consider them. The rest he has just received.

With respect to M^{r} Walpole, He call'd in Downing Street just before he went to Paris, & offer'd his services, if he could be of any use with his friends towards any point that might benefit Great Britain, particularly, towards forwarding the good work of Peace to which he knew that many of the French Ministry were well inclined. Lord North expecting little good from such

a negociation, & less from such a negociator, eluded the discourse, & civilly declined accepting of Mr Walpole's offer of service. Mr W. wrote Lord N. a letter just before his departure repeating his offer, which Lord N. explicitly declined as because the moment was not favourable ; This was the purport of Lord North's letter, to which he did not expect a reply ; but Mr W. has since his arrival at Paris wrote the two inclosed letters to Lord North, who, on his part, has as yet wrote nothing to Mr W. The letters may be of use towards explaining Dr Bancroft's letter to Mr Wentworth which is inclosed, as well as the Dr's former letters which have been communicated to his Majesty.

Lord North has the honour to send his Majesty the letters he has lately received from Lord Buckingham, as well as one he received yesterday from Lord Carlisle & begs to receive his Majesty's pleasure whether his Majesty will permit him or Lord Carlisle to say to Mr Eden what Lord Carlisle suggests in his first proposition. The second Ld N. communicated some time ago to him, with his Majesty's permission, & he at the same offer'd to leave him for some time in possession of his seat at the Board of Trade.

Bushy Park
Septr 18. 1780.

No. 3139—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 332.

Windsor Castle *Sept*^{t} 18th 1780.
$\frac{m}{37}$ p^{t} 5. P.M.

The letters from Mr Walpole and Wentworth are curious but cannot require any other remark from Me than that whilst America is only to be treated with through the medium of France or the strange *unauthorised* propositions of the Commissioners are to be the Basis of any Arrangement with the Rebellious Colonies ; I cannot give any sanction to any Negociation, besides Mr Walpole's political conduct cannot make Me think him a safe conveyance or an impartial one.

Ld Buckingham's proposal for Peerages as well as the idea of filling up any Vacant Offices in Ireland ought to lay quiet, till it is known how Government is to erect its Standard in Ireland.

As to the Propositions transmitted by L^d^ Carlisle as his own, but which bear the strongest Marks of being the offspring of Eden's Pen ; I can only say that I neither object to the first or the second ; but certainly no consideration can make me call him to the English Privy Council till He has the claim which an office to which that Honour is ever attendant falls to his Share ; besides the Privy Council is too numerous and will lose its dignity if prostituted on every occasion. One might Suppose he had already imbibed the Blunders of the Kingdom where he means to play the Minister by the fourth proposition for He wishes to remain at the Board of Trade yet by the Second means to be looked on as if a Member of a Superior one ; if He means to acquire the advantage of the Second, He must give up that of the fourth.

No. 3140—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *Sept.* 19. 1780

The inclosed Letter from Lord Breadalbane is this Moment arrived.

The Lords who have applied to me to recommend them to your Majesty's favour upon this occasion, stating them in the order in which their applications were made are Ld. Buchan, Lord Cathcart, Ld. Kinnaird, Lord Balcarras, Lord Dumfries, Ld. Dysart & Lord Moray. Ld. Glencairn & Ld. Aboyn have been mentioned to me by Ld. North as having applied to Him. If there was any one of them who appeared to me to have clearly Pretensions Superior to all the Rest I should think it my Duty to state them to Your Majesty. But that is not the case. The scales seem to me to hang pretty even between several of the candidates ; in that situation My wishes if I may presume humbly to mention them to Your Majesty, are in favour of Lord Cathcart whose Zeal I know and who I may venture to say, bids as fair as any of them for having Parliamentary Talents, and would I am sure use every Endeavour to distinguish himself in that Line.

No. 3141—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

After I had perused the Inclosed Papers, I sent them to M^r^ Lewis ordering him to wait on S^r^ Chas. Gould & to consult

Him upon the proper Mode of refering them, & stating two objections.

1st The Objection stated by Your Majesty to Genl Carpenter being of the Board as having had some Connections of a Military Kind with one of the Parties.

2nd An Objection of my own, that the Board was not sufficiently numerous to decide a Question upon which six General Officers in Ireland had given an Opinion & where so large an Interest was concern'd.

I added however in express Terms that as Lord Amherst had given a positive Opinion on this Business, I thought it best to conform to it, unless the Judge Advocate saw material Objections.

That Your Majesty may see the Judge Advocate's Opinion in its true & genuine Light, I presume to send it to Your Majesty as transcribed on the Cap that contains the Papers.

I send them to Your Majesty in this manner rather than bring with Me tomorrow, as Your Majesty will probably be detained late at Your Drawing Room & Lord North & the other Ministers will afterwards take up a great deal of Your Majesty's time ; & there is no Occasion to come to any Resolution on this Business till Wednesday next, the General Officers being out of Town & Sr Chas. Gould is going out of Town for a Month.

Perhaps not to run too much counter to Sr C Amherst's Opinion, it may be right not to follow wholly that of Sr Chas Gould by referring this Business to the whole Board of General Officers, but to summon to it those only who have Regiments of Cavalry, as it is a Business that relates only to them immediately.

And I submit to Your Majesty whether in talking to Lord Amherst on this Subject, it would be right to mention Sr Chas Gould's Name, in order not to widen the Breach there is between them.

I have obey'd Your Majesty's Commands in desiring Mr Robinson to suggest to Ld North the Impropriety there is in naming Lord Cathcart at present one of the sixteen.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. Jenkinson.

Addiscombe Place
Sept. 21st 1780.

Since writing the Above to Your Majesty I have seen Mr Lewis & He tells me that as the Principle on which this Point turns, will

affect the Interests of the Colonels of the Regiments of Infantry the Judge Advocate was humbly of Opinion that it should go to the whole Board of General Officers.

No. 3142—*The King to Lord North.*

St. James's. *Sept. 20th* 1780
$\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

It is very natural that Ld. North's affairs in the West should require his presence ; I therefore wish him a good journey ; but hope he will order the titles and precedency of the New Peers to be sent to the Secretary of State, for want of which the Warrants are not yet prepared for my Signature authorising the preparation of the Patents.

No. 3143—*Sir Stanier Porten to the King.*

In obedience to Your Majesty's Command, a Messenger was upon the receipt thereof dispatched to Windsor. he met near Hounslow one of your Majesty's Domesticks, and returned hither a few minutes before one o'clock with Your Majesty's most gracious communication of The Queen's happy Delivery and of the Birth of a Ninth Prince, which was received with the highest Joy and Gratitude. Notice was without delay sent to the Master General of the Ordnance, and at a little after two o'clock the Guns at the Tower, and in the Park announced to the Publick the joyful Event. One of the Messengers waiting on your Majesty will be at Windsor every morning before nine o'clock and the list of Enquiries from The Queen's Page of the Presence will be sent to Your Majesty by him.

St. James's. *Friday night.*
22*d of September* 1780.

No. 3144—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North believes that, when he had the honour of writing to his Majesty on Wednesday, He so express'd himself that his

Majesty might conceive that he intended immediately to set out for the country, but he never intended to avail himself of his Majesty's gracious permission till after this day, and will not fail today to pay his duty to his Majesty this morning.

Lord North was very much concerned yesterday to find Lord Stormont averse from recommending to his Majesty as one of the sixteen Peers of Scotland the Earl of Glencairn. He has been a Solicitor as far back as the last general Election, & has given both then & since his assistance very materially to our friends in promoting their elections, & has had hopes given him before Lord Suffolk's death ; Till there was a prospect of two vacancies, it really escaped Lord North's memory to state this matter to Lord Stormont, but he wrote him from Banbury upon this point & has since received a letter from Lord Breadalbane, declining his election as one of the sixteen. He is much press'd by the Lord Advocate on behalf of Lord Glencairn to whom he has communicated at different times the assurances of support at this Election, & he is afraid that the interest of Government in Scotland may be affected by it, Lord North is, in no other light, much concern'd about Lord Glencairn but he thinks it his duty to state what he apprehends will affect the political interest of Government upon the choise of a new Parliament, as his Majesty pleasure is to continue that task in his hands though much above his ability, & contrary to his inclination.

Since Lord North came to Town, He has found Mr. Walpole's first letter to him, & incloses it, with a copy of Lord North's answer.

Downing Street. *Friday Morn.*
Sept. 22 [1780].

No. 3145—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 333.

Windsor Castle. *Sept. 23rd.* 1780
$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 2 P.M.

Lord North's letter on Wednesday certainly stated his journey for the West as immediate, and Sir Grey Cooper on the Terrace on Tuesday had told Me Ld. North meant to go on this day to

Somerset Shire ; that was the cause of my not writing Ld. North word that the Queen's situation prevented my coming to Town ; She is thank God as well as the Boy as well as can be expected. I find Ld. Stormont very anxious for Ld. Cathcart I have very civily but clearly on paper shewn him that I think the Choise would not be acceptable by reason of the Youth and Small property of His Brother in Law ; I wish Ld. North had earlier mentioned Ld. Glencairn to Me and had told Me what his pretensions as to Abilities Private Character or fortune really are ; I now have only the one view of his having long applied if the other Candidate have not better pretensions in those points I cannot but decide for Ld. Glencairn but Ld. Stormont stated him as only supported by being useful to the Ld. Advocate in Elections, which I wld. not deny was no plea for being elected.

No. 3146—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the Honour to transmit to Your Majesty the return of Members this Day received, A State of the Westminster Poll, and an Account of what passed when it was finally closed today. On a Consultation this Morning it was found, that it was not possible to make any ffigure in continuing the Poll longer, and therefore every Exertion was made to bring up this Day, before it was closed, all that could be got to the Hustings. A Scrutiny having been demanded, it is supposed that the High Bayliff will adjourn for a ffortnight, and during that time, a very strict Examination will be made into all the Voters, of which it is expected very great Numbers, polling for Mr. Fox, will be found not to have legal votes. This Contest being over, Mr. Robinson having done everything that is possible for him to do to give aid in Surrey, and the other Elections being nearly over, (all those however wherein he can Act) He is desirous, if Your Majesty shall be graciously pleased to permit him to go to Harwich for a little while to endeavour to strengthen himself for the Winter Campaign by Sea Bathing.

Mr. Robinson wants Words to express the dutiful Sense he feels of Your Majesty's great Goodness and vast condescension, in informing him of the happy delivery of Her Majesty of a Prince—All Your Majesty's ffaithful Subjects must feel great

Joy in this Accession to your Majesty's Family, but will Your Majesty be graciously pleased to Permit him humbly and unfeignedly to express the warm Effusions of his Heart, and to assure Your Majesty, that No One Person whatever, can be impressed with more sincere Satisfaction on this Event, and on every Thing which can contribute to Your Majesty's Happiness and comfort, or the Prosperity of Your Majesty's Family.

Syon Hill.
22d Sept. 1780
12° *Midnight.*

No. 3147.

Return of Members Elected.

Received 22 Sept. 1780.

Returns of Members Received the 22d. September. 1780

Hampshire.

Robert Thistlethwaite.
Jervoise Clerke.

Rutlandshire.

Thomas Noel.
Geo. B. Brudenell.

Lincolnshire.

Charles Andⁿ Pelham.
Sir John Thorold Bart.

Radnor.

Thomas Johnes.

Norfolk.

Sir Edward Astley Bart.
Thos. Willm. Coke.

Carlisle City.

Earl of Surrey.
Wm. Lowther.

Lancashire.

Sir Thos. Egerton.
Thos. Stanley.

Stirlingshire.

Thomas Dundas

State of the Westminster Poll.

Lincoln	4257
Rodney	5298
Fox	4878

No. 3148—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *Sept.* 23*d* [1780].
$\frac{45}{m}$ *p two* P.M.

I most heartily rejoice in the account Your Majesty is so good as to give Me of the Queens continuing so well. I would not trouble Your Majesty yesterday with any thing disagreeable but I now find that Ld. North has wrote to Yr. Majesty, & therefore it becomes a necessary, tho painful Part of my Duty to give Yr. Majesty an account of what passed in a Conversation I had with Him on Thursday Morning I shall confine myself for many Reasons to a bare Narration of the substance of what passed. I spoke to Ld. North very much to the effect of what I had presumed to say to Your Majesty. Ld. North said that an arrangement was taken with Ld. Advocate in favour of Ld. Glencairn and that the Advocate had been authorized to give Ld. Glencairn a Promise, in case he assisted in I know not what Elections, and that the Advocate even complained that a Vacancy had not been made on purpose for Ld. Glencairn.

I was very much struck & after a considerable Pause which gave me Time to recollect myself said that from that Moment I revoked all Idea of Ld. Cathcart, that whenever I found myself called upon to support the Station in which Your Maj^{tys} Goodness had placed me, and to oppose what I conceived to be prejudicial to Your Majesty's Service I would take care to stand upon such Ground as to be above the suspicion, nay beyond the Possibility of a Partial Biass. I observed to Him that there were in my Judgment many strong objections in Point of Wisdom & Dignity to this Sort of Bargain and that I should think it my Duty to state them to Your Majesty.

I told Him I was sure this arrangement had not the previous sanction of Your Majesty's approbation, that it had been taken without the least communication with me who by my situation was the official and did not expect to be a mere Nominal channel that I was free to own that I should ever deem it the Duty of one who holds a great office to be watchful to preserve it such as He received it. I added that if the Secretary for the Northern Department and who when he happens to be Senior as in my

Case has what is called the official Lead in the House of Lords, was to have no Voice in Matters of this kind it was impossible for Him so circumstanced to appear there with credit to himself or to be of the least use to the Service. That if it was found expedient that Ld. Advocates Recommendation should decide things of this Nature, if it was thought proper he should have such Powers, it was better that he should be placed in a situation that justified them.

Ld. North's Part in this Conversation was very short, he dwelt solely upon the Arrangement actually taken and spoke of it all along as He might have done of an arrangement in the Treasury.

I am the more surprized at what is now said of an arrangement in Ld. Suffolk's time and the not apprehending there would be any vacancy except that made by Ld. Bute because I rec^{d} a Letter of the 5th Inst. from Ld. North which I take the Liberty to inclose.

It grieves me exceedingly that these Misunderstandings never can happen without adding to Your Majesty's Trouble & vexation, and hurting your Service. There is nothing upon Earth I would not do to contribute to Your Majesty's Ease, but I think it greatly to Your Interest that Men employed under Your Majesty in high office, should without any Measure of Passion or Humour, calmly and steadily preserve the Honour & Dignity of their own characters.

No. 3149—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

Lord Hillsborough flatters himself Your Majesty will pardon the liberty he takes in expressing to Your Majesty the great Joy and Satisfaction he feels upon the News of the Queen's safe Delivery of a Prince, & his sincerest hopes that Her Majesty is as well as can be expected, & the Prince perfectly well. Lord Hillsborough humbly requests your Majesty will be pleased to accept his most dutyfull congratulations upon this happy Event.

Hill Park.
September 23*d.* 1780.

No. 3150—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty two Warrants one appointing Mr. Combie to the Treasurership of the Ordnance, which his Majesty will be so good as to cancel, The other is submitted to his Majestys gracious consideration & is an appointment of Mr. Adam in the room of poor Mr. Combie, if his Majesty shall approve it. Mr. Adam does not know of this appointment, & Ld. North is afraid, will not much like it, as he expected to be a Lord of Trade, but no such place being now vacant, Lord North imagines that he will prefer the Treasurership of the Ordnance to remaining out of place. Lord North has caused the Warrant to be dated on the 15th of this month, that it may be sure to tally with Mr. Adam's Election.

Lord North has the honour of enclosing to His Majesty a letter from Mr. Eden, who he believes, perfectly understood Lord North & endeavoured to express it, but one or two of his expressions being rather ambiguous may, possibly, lead his Majesty to suppose that Lord North held a different language than he did.

Lord North told Mr. Eden in the presence of Lord Carlisle that his Majesty approved of his service in Ireland, that he would be considered on his return as having pass'd the Treasury Board, that he could not, however, claim that rank, while he held his place at the Board of Trade, but that he must quit the latter before he could be entitled to the former. Lord North did not positively insist upon his quitting the Board of Trade Immediately, but told him that he must not expect either the present enjoyment, or the promise of a seat at the Privy Council.

Lord North finds Lord Dartmouth so much hurt that Lord Lewisham is not in the present arrangement, that he should be very happy to gratify him; Indeed, It has always been Lord North's wish to do it, but it has really not been in his power to recommend Lord Lewisham as yet to his Majesty. If Lord Lisburn had not refused the Comptroller's Staff, a place would be open at the Admiralty, for L^{d} L^{m} & he might soon be brought to the Board of Treasury. Upon Lord Lisburn's refusal, Lord North has thought either of Lord Westcote, or Mr. Newton. He does not believe that the former would accept of it, as the difference of income would be too great to be approved of by

him. He believes that, though the latter is sometimes troubled with the gout, & has wished to go out of Parliament intirely, yet, he would accept of the change, or, perhaps, might be prevail'd upon, to quit without any compensation at all. Lord North would take no step towards any of these measures till he had laid the whole before his Majesty & had received his permission & pleasure.

Lord North has the honour of transmitting to his Majesty some letters concerning Peerages to all of which, where it is necessary to give any further answer, Lord North apprehends that the properest return will be that his Majesty will not permit any more applications for peerages.

Bushy Park.
Sept. 24. 1780.

Lord North has the honour of adding a letter from Lord Edgcumbe.

No. 3151—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *Sept.* 25. 1780.

There is Nothing I would not suffer rather than be the Cause of any Uneasiness to Your Majesty or the least Embarrasment to Your Service especially at such a Time as this.

Where none of the Competitors had very superior Pretensions I certainly should not have differed with Lord North's Opinion. Upon the Question who should be preferred. But I was hurt at absolute Promises being given by authority without any Communication with Me. Your Majesty's allowing the Justice of my Complaint has set my Mind at Ease, and the best Return I can make for so much Goodness is to rest the matter here, and never to say a Word more upon the Subject. Your Majesty will say to Lord North what You think proper upon what has passed. I shall immediately obey Your Majesty's Commands.

No. 3152—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the honour to submitt to your Majesty's approbation the enclosed list of a promotion of flag officers, the whole of which was approved at the Cabinet on Thursday except

an immaterial addition since made by Lord Sandwich, namely that of adding Evans & Millbank to the list of Vice Admirals; the former being in actual service would complain if it stopped at him, the other is well connected, and perhaps should not at this moment be disobliged for such a trifle.

Lord Sandwich has not said anything to the Duke of Montagu about Captain Webber, knowing that it would be very difficult to prevail on his Grace to give him up, and having heard a very good character of him while he was able to serve.

At the same Cabinet it was agreed that upon Sir George Rodneys having made the option of the Pension, which as it is to be for life will not affect his Seat in Parliament, Lord Sandwich should take your Majesty's pleasure for the appointment of Sir Thomas Pye to be Lieutenant General of Marines. Your Majesty will have the goodness to signify your pleasure relative to the appointment of Captain Martin to be Commissioner of Portsmouth Yard.

ADMIRALTY.
Sept. 25th. 1780.

No. 3153—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 334.

WINDSOR CASTLE. *Sept. 25th* 1780. $\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

Lord North's thinking Mr. Adam ought to have the place of Treasurer of the Ordnance as his wishes of being placed in the Board of Trade has not been effected is reason enough for Me to Sign the Appointment; but if Ld. North had as strongly as I expected spoke to Mr. Eden it would yet be time to satisfy the reasonable request of Mr. Adam; it is impossible for Me to follow Mr. Eden through the mazes and turnings he is ever treading; I wrote my Sentiments clearly and cannot depart from them.

Ld. Dartmouth deserves every kind of Attention and I cannot see why Ld. Lewisham should not at once have the Comptrollers Staff. Ld. North cannot seriously think that a private Gentleman like Mr. Penton is to stand in the way of the Eldest Son of an Earl, undoubtedly if that idea holds good it is

diametrically opposite to what I have known all my life ; besides Ld. Lewisham stands for a County, his vacating frequently his Seat is not therefore eligible, consequently here seems to be a very natural opportunity of pleasing Ld. Dartmouth.

Lord North should certainly answer all the Appliers for Peerages that no more can be made ; but I am sorry to add the Warrants are not come yet for those nominated.

No. 3154—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North wishes certainly much better to Lord Lewisham than any other of the Candidates, but what he proposed was upon the suggestion of Mr. Robinson, who had conversed with Lord Dartmouth upon the subject, & Lord North endeavour'd to promote Lord Dartmouth's wishes to the best of his power & knowledge. Lord Lewisham will be chosen for Staffordshire on Thursday, so that there will not be time for him to receive the Staff before his Election ; but Lord North will have the honour of conveying immediately his Majesty's gracious intentions to Lord Dartmouth.

Bushy Park.
Tuesday. Sept. 26. 1780.

No. 3155—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 335.

Windsor Castle. *Sept. 26th.* 1780
$\frac{m}{45}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

The Messenger having received Orders when I had read the letters to carry this Box to Bushy Park, I chose to accompany it with a few lines for Ld. North's information of the State of my mind on the receipt of Sir H. Clinton's Dispatches, which are certainly of a very gloomy cast, but in this World it is not right alone to view evils but to consider whether they can be avoided and what means are the most efficacious;

Undoubtedly this Island has made greater exertions to keep its Station among the considerable Powers of Europe than perhaps

could have been expected, the Number of Troops sent to America has been prodigious and the Colonies have given no assistance ; but is that new this Year, has it not been the case for the greatest part of the Struggle ; the giving up the Game would be total ruin, a small State may certainly Subsist but a great one mouldering cannot get into an inferior Situation but must be anihilated ; What is to be drawn from hence is that we must strengthen the West India Squadron, we must recruit Clinton's Army not for conquest but to keep what he has. The French never could stand the Cold of Germany, that of America must be more fatal to them ; America is distressed to the Greatest Degree, the Finances of France as well as Spain are in no good situation ; this War like the last will prove one of Credit ; foreigners See very clearly that the Resources of this Country are greater than they could have expected that raises their opinion and must make them not fear for that material branch [;] in short by perseverance we may bring things to a peace [,] by giving up the game we are destroying ourselves to prevent being destroyed ; in short we must put every place in the best State of Defence on the Continent of America contract the War to that Sole end, and on Float do all the Mischief we can to our Enemies.

I suppose Ld. North will order the Box to be sent after reading the dispatches to Stoneland and desire Ld. George Germain to be tomorrow in Town.

No. 3156.

Minute of Cabinet.

Copy at Ld. George Germains. Sept. 28. 1780.

Present.

Ld. Hillsborough.
Ld. G. Germain
Ld. North.
Ld. Amherst.
Ld. Stormont.

Agreed that it be submitted to his Majesty as the opinion of this Meeting that three Bataillons be sent from Ireland to the Leward Islands, and that the three Bataillons lately come from

thence be sent to Ireland to replace the three Bataillons on that Establishment and that the Recruits be sent from England to compleat as far as possible the Regiments in North America.

Agreed also that it be submitted to his Majesty whether in the present situation of the War when the french appear determined to make great efforts in North America it may not be expedient to send three Bataillons from this country to augment the Force under the Command of Sr. Henry Clinton, but to be directed to go in the first place to Charles Town.

No. 3157—*Lord North to the King.*

[29 *September*, 1780.]

Lord North has the honour of transmitting the inclosed letters to his Majesty in a packet, because Mr. Robinson being out of Town, & Lord North having to set out for Somersetshire tomorrow, no person about the Treasury is possessed of a Key to the Boxes. The Treasury have written a very full and pressing letter to the Navy Board upon the subject of the provisions, & Lord North has had upon the same subject a long conversation with the Comptroller of the Navy. Lord North hopes that the service will be carried on more regularly for the future, the two principal causes of the present alarm appear to have been Want of regular & sufficient Convoys from Europe, & the omission of returning the light transport in time from North America.

Lord North proposes to set out early tomorrow morning for Somersetshire, where he will continue no longer than is absolutely necessary, & where his Majesty's commands, if he has any to send to Lord North, will find him in a very short time.

Thursday Night. 11 *o'clock* P.M.

As Mr. Robinson & Lord North will be both out of Town when his Majesty returns the dispatches, If his Majesty will be so good as to return them without any accompanying letter. The Clerks of the Treasury will open the dispatches and do what is necessary in conveyance. Lord North Humbly submits to his Majesty that any orders which his Majesty may please to give in consequence will be more conveniently sent in a separate packet.

No. 3158—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 337.

WINDSOR CASTLE. *Sept. 30th.* 1780

Agreable to Ld. North's desire I have sent the letters from America to the Treasury; but chose just to write to Him a few lines to express my Approbation of the Minute of Cabinet and that I have in consequence ordered the 3d, 19th and 30th Regiments from Ireland to the Leward Islands. the 1st Bat. of the Royals, 13th and 69th to Charles Town; orders are given for the transport to be prepared and the officers of the 3rd, 5th and 49th Regiments to be put on the Irish Establishment, instead of the three Regiments taken from thence.

The Regulations Ld. North has settled with the Comptroller will I trust be of effect; but I must have a good deal of Conversation with Ld. Sandwich that the Frigates may be more employed both to protect our Convoys and Annoy those of the Enemy.

No. 3159.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

at Ld Hillsborough's Office Oct^{r} 10. 1780

Present

Ld Sandwich
Ld Hillsborough
Ld G. Germain
Ld North
Ld Stormont

Agreed that it be submitted to His Maj^{ty} as the opinion of this Meeting that L^{d} Hillsborough do declare to M. de Souza that in case the Queen of Portugal should be urged by the Courts of France & Spain or either of them to violate Her Treaties with Great Britain should declare her Resolution to maintain those Treaties & in Consequence of such Declaration should be threatend by Both or either of the abovementioned Powers, in that Case His Majesty will without Delay fulfill his engagement as stipulated

by Treaty, will take immediate Measures to such an Event & in Case the Situation of her faithful Majestys affairs should require Aid beyond that stipulated by Treaty His Majesty will be ready to give every further assistance that shall be in his Power.

No. 3160.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy. at L[d] George Germains oct[r] 11. 1780

Present

L[d] Sandwich
L[d] Hillsborough
L[d] George Germain
L[d] North
L[d] Amherst
L[d] Stormont

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty as the opinion of this Meeting that Vice Admiral Arbuthnot be appointed to relieve S[r] Peter Parker in the Command at Jamaica and that another flag officer now on the List be appointed to the Command in america and to be joint Commissioner with the commander in chief of the army there. if this arrangement together with assurances of such a Reinforcement of Troops as can be spared from this Country does not induce S[r] Henry Clinton to think that He can continue in the Command, His Majesty tho' unwillingly does in that case permit Him to resign His Command to L[d] Cornwallis.

x Agreed that as Intelligence has been received of further Reinforcements of Ships and Troops preparing to be sent from France to North America this Year. it is judged expedient to revoke the Peremptory Orders to Admiral Arbuthnot to dispatch at least five ships of the Line to the West Indies, and to leave Him a Discretion to keep them in North america provided they can winter there in safety so as to be at Hand in the Beginning of the Spring. NB x This latter Part of the Minute to be reconsiderd.

No. 3161—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Oct*r 12 1780.

Your Majesty was pleased to approve the Intention of communicating to Sr Joseph Yorke such Parts of Lauren's Papers as relate to his intended Negotiation in Holland. Upon my perusal of Sr Josephs last Dispatches on My Return from Court. I observed that he expects the States of Holland will immediately deliberate upon the Dispatches of their Ministers at Petersburgh. It struck me that those Deliberations might possibly be affected by the Discoveries we have made, and that in that view it was material that the Papers should be sent to Sr Joseph Yorke as soon as possible. Upon this Consideration I venturd tho not without much hesitation to send a Messenger last Night with a Letter, the Drt of which could not be submitted to Your Majesty Yesterday. I read it to the Meeting where it was approved.

No. 3162—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North thinks it his duty to apprize his Majesty of a troublesome business, which will be laid before his Majesty today. The Colonel of the Buckinghamshire Militia has desired to resign his Commission in favour of Lord Temple, now Major of the Regiment; Lord Chesterfield has a very earnest desire of being promoted to the command of the Corps, &, as a politician, has certainly a much better claim upon us than Lord Temple, but Lord le Despencer thinks that Lord Temple has better claims of another kind, & has told Lord Chesterfield, that he intends to leave the nomination entirely to his Majesty laying at the same time before his Majesty the names of the two field officers. Lord North has, for his Majesty's information, inclosed two letters one from Lord le Despencer, & the other from Lord Chesterfield, by which his Majesty may learn the pretensions of Lord Temple, & the wishes of Lord Chesterfield; There is certainly something in what Lord le Dispencer states of the former, & it seems rather inconvenient, (as Lord Chesterfield is so earnestly bent upon this command) that Lord le Despencer does not take upon himself this decision in the usual manner, without a particular reference

to the Crown. That his Majesty may be apprized of this disagreable contest, before Lord le Despencers audience today, Lord North has taken the liberty just to mention those particulars to his Majesty. It would be well if some method could be devised which might satisfy Lord Chesterfield, without pressing Lord le Despencer to do what he considers as an injustice to Lord Temple.

Wednesday Oct: 18. 1780.

Enclosure.

Lord le Despencer to [*Lord North*].

HAND SQUARE *Oct*^{r} 17th 1780

MY DEAR LORD—Upon my arrival in town this evening I received the honour of Your Lordship's letter, several letters have passed between Lord Chesterfield and myself upon this occasion, and so far from being silent in regard to his request I have been explicite, at the same time expressing every good will and friendship towards him. it is natural for me to wish him success (apart my personal friendship and regard) from his being in the same line of Politicks with Myself; but that I could not commit myself to do an act of injustice to Lord Temple who has served two Campaigns with diligence and Attention and been less absent from his duty than almost every Captain in the Regiment he has filled up the Regiment with subaltern officers of which it was very deficient. in my letter of last night to Lord Chesterfield which he received this day I told him I should do no more than acquaint his Majesty of the late Colonel^{s} resignation and name the two remaining field officers, and wait his Majesty's Commands, at the same time advising him to apply to some powerfull friend to mention him to the King. and who his Majesty pleases to appoint I shall with Chearfulness obey his commands. I have no connection in the least with Lord Temple, I have not received any civilities from him: but I cannot set my face to an apparent injustice—he has raised and added a tenth company to the Regiment in time of need, however my inclinations may be, I cannot deny the truth. If your Lordship pleases to morrow to apply to the King, I am sure I shall not take it ill, I only desire that I may in honor and Conscience stand clear in this disagreable dispute. I hope Your Lordship

will give me leave to wait on you for a quarter of an hour, between ten and eleven O Clock to morrow morning.

My dear Lord You may depend upon my being Most faithfully Your Lordship^{s} Most Obedient humble Servant

LE DESPENCER

No. 3163.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy. at L^{d} Sandwich's Oct^{r} 19. 1780

Present

L^{d} Sandwich
L^{d} Hillsborough
L^{d} North
L^{d} Amherst
L^{d} Stormont

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agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty as the opinion of this Meeting that in case the Court of Portugal shall in answer to the Declaration made by L^{d} Hillsborough to the Portuguese Minister promise to adhere to the Treaties with Great Britain it will be necessary that the Military Force of this Country be augmented in such a Manner as to enable His Majesty to fulfill the Engagements he is under by Treaty with the Court of Portugal.

Upon reading M^{r} Cumberland's last Letter and the Paper brought over by M^{r} Hussey it is humbly submitted that no further Step should be taken in this Business for some Time.

No. 3164—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a letter he has received from M^{r} Frederick Montagu in return to one Lord North wrote to him about ten days ago. The Answer was such as Lord North expected from the conversation he had with him some time ago, He appears, however, notwithstanding his former declarations, to have been stagger'd by Lord North's last letter.

As it seem'd to Lord North to be his Majesty's wish to avoid

if possible, the replacing Sr Fletcher Norton in the chair, Mr Robinson, at Lord North's desire, wrote the inclosed letter to sound Mr Cornewall, to which he has received the inclosed answer. From the answer it appears that Mr Cornewall would not decline the Chair, &, if it thought proper to try it, He may, probably, succeed, but Lord North can not answer for his success, as he would have done for Mr Montagu's.

Although Lord North is willing to dedicate his best endeavours to his Majesty's service, Yet he thinks it his duty, in every arduous moment, to state what he really conceives himself able to perform, & in that view, considers it as his duty to inform his Majesty that he finds his spirits, & his frailties both of mind & body much less equal to his situation than they were this time twelvemonth. He will do what he can, but he thinks it not improbable that he may fail in the midst of his Majesty's most important business, for which he humbly suggests to his Majesty that it will be right for his Majesty always to be prepared.

Lord North has the honour to add to this packet a letter from the Lord Advocate respecting the Election for the County of Orkney.

*Tuesday Evening Oct*r 24 [1780].

No. 3165—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 337.

Windsor Castle *Oct* 25*th* 1780.

$\frac{m}{19}$. *p*t 9. A.M.

The letter from Mr Montagu shews the same temper of mind that had made me respect his Character and convinces Me that nothing but want of health prevents his Stepping forth on the present Occasion; Mr Cornewall is a very respectable person for the Office of Speaker, and ought to be assured of the Support of Government on this occasion, and called on to attend at the first Meeting, and to take all the pains He can, to shew his willingness to accept of that Honorable Situation.

That Lord North should feel a little languid on the Approach of the Meeting of Parliament is not surprising, it is far from being a pleasant Sensation even to Me; but I know His resolution

always rises when the times call for it, therefore have not the Smallest doubt but he will Shew that Zeal for which he has been conspicuous from the hour of the Duke of Grafton's desertion.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 3166—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE *Oct.* 30th 1780.

$\frac{m}{33}$. p^t 10. P.M.

The two letters transmitted by Ld North, though they contain nothing for deliberation, yet they seem to convey a desire of Peace in the Court of France which certainly has no other foundation but from difficulties of Finance not fully known here, should this continue I trust by degrees they will be forced to come into ideas more consonant to the interest of this Country.

No. 3167—*Lord North to the King.*

[? *October*, 1780.]

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty the letter he intends to write to M^r Walpole. Between the impropriety of treating through that channell, & the danger of seeming to reject absolutely all propositions of a pacific nature, It was difficult to know how to word a letter.

DOWNING STREET *one o'clock.*

No. 3168—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 338.

QUEEN'S HOUSE *Oct* 31st 1780

$\frac{m}{59}$. p^t *one* P M.

Undoubtedly there appeared some difficulty in getting quit of M^r Walpole's offer without an absolute refusal of all propositions of a Pacific Nature; but Ld. North has so cautiously and ably drawn his answer to that Gentleman that He has certainly

overcome it; I owne if Mr Walpole was not an avowed Enemy to the present Administration, I should not think him the possessor of those qualities which are essential in a prudent and able Negociator; I shall only add one reflection that whilst the House of Bourbon make American Independency an Article of their propositions no event can ever make Me be a Sharer in Such a Negociation.

No. 3169—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 338.

I am much pleased at Ld. Norths account of Mr Cornwall having been Elected Speaker this Day by so considerable a Majority; I thoroughly approve Ld. North's prudence in not coming out, and have acquainted the Queen with the cause of his not appearing this Evening.

St James's
Oct 31st 1780
$\frac{m}{8}$ pt 7. pm

No. 3170.

Minute of Cabinet.

Copy. at Lord Sandwich's Novr 2d 1780

Present

Ld Chancellor
Ld President
Ld Sandwich
Ld Hillsborough
Ld George Germain
Ld Amherst
Ld Stormont

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty as the opinion of this Meeting that the second Project suggested by Commodore Johnston be adopted with this alteration of the Naval Force proposed. a 50 Gun Ship to be substituted in the Room of the 64 Gun Ship which cannot be spared.

No. 3171.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy. at L^d^ Sandwichs Novr 3^d^ 1780

Present

L^d^ Chancellor
L^d^ President
L^d^ Sandwich
L^d^ Hillsborough
L^d^ Amherst
L^d^ Stormont

Agreed that it is the opinion of this Meeting that the Declaration as alterd here be sent immediately to S^r^ Joseph Yorke with orders to Him to present it unless before the arrival of this Messenger a Majority of the Provinces shall have declared themselves against the Resolution which has passed the States of Holland to accede to the Neutral Union without demanding the Guaranty of Russia of all the Territories of the Republic. L^d^ George Germain and Lord North who could not attend the Meeting read the different Papers the next day and expressed their approbation of the Resolution as stated in the Minute L^d^ Dartmouth is not in Town.

No. 3172—*Lord North to* [*Lord Stormont*].

DOWNING STREET *Sat^y^ Nov^r^* 4.

MY DEAR LORD—I have read your papers, & the declaration which seems necessary; The most difficult point seems to be what Steps to take in case of an unsatisfactory answer or of no answer, for one or other I am afraid we shall have, but the Declaration can not be wrong, & I have no objection to having my name added as present at the Cabinet, when the Minute was made.

I have the hon: to be, with gr^t^ resp^t^ My d^r^ L^ds^ most faithful humble servant. NORTH

No. 3173—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr Robinson had the Honour to receive Your Majesty's Commands, and to communicate them to Lord North; His Lordship sensibly feels Your Majesty's most gracious and kind Attention to His Health, and desired Mr Robinson to express to Your Majesty his most dutiful Acknowledgements of Your Majestys Goodness—He certainly will not attempt to go out to morrow, altho' he has had another good Night and continues better; and Mr Robinson will send the Motion for the Address to Lord George Germain, Mr Jenkinson, the Attorney General, & Solicitor General, and Mr Rigby, and also to the Lord Advocate if he shd come to town in time, which Mr Robinson is not without hopes of, as he has had no Answer to his last express to say that the Lord Advocate cou'd not come; and Mr Robinson will desire their Assistance, notwithstanding the Business of the Coventry Election will as a Matter of Priviledge come first before the House, and perhaps take up the whole Day. Mr Robinson received yesterday from Mr Lees, late private Secretary to Lords Townshend & Harcourt in their Administration in Ireland, and who the Duke of Leinster sent over for this purpose, the Papers herewith transmitted; As Mr Lees accompanied the Propositions with some verbal explanations and Observations, Mr Robinson desired, to avoid Mistakes, that Mr Lees wou'd put down such Notes in writing, which accordingly is done in the Paper so marked, and Mr Robinson wished also Mr Lees to send to the Duke of Leinster a Copy of such Paper, that His Grace might exactly know every step taken. Mr Lees had a Letter from the Duke to Lord Carlisle which Mr Lees wd deliver this Day—The Duke of Leinster leaves any Negociation respecting Mr Hussey Burgh to be made with himself, but Mr Lees says, His Grace stated to him that Mr Burgh's Object was to be chief Justice of the King's Bench, but that in his Opinion, he ought not to have it, for that he wod be making some decision in that Court which wd set the two Countries in fflames, and that Mr Burgh was so wavering, uncertain, and variable that he ought not to be entrusted with anything which cou'd not be taken from him the next Day. Nothing was stated as to Mr Foster, But the Duke said that altho' he was soliciting an Office depending

on Mr Floods removal, yet if he was to advise, he should not recommend that Measure now, for if at all, it should have been done at the Moment of his delinquency, and Mr Flood wou'd if removed now give great trouble in the next parliament, when probably he will act warmly in support of Lord Carlisle's Administration, and in this Case his Grace wou'd wait for Lord Drogheda's death, or some other opening. Mr Robinson has laid those Papers before Lord North, and by his Lordships orders submits them to Your Majesty ; after which Lord North proposes to see Lord Hillsborough & Lord Carlisle thereon. Lord North informed Mr Robinson that Lord Ely had made to him (Lord North) similar Professions to Your Majesty, and to Your Government, and Mr Robinson hears that Lord Shannon holds the same Language, looking up to English Government for the Guide of their Conduct, and for a permanent rule for them to act by, and not the fluctuating Ideas of a Lord Lieutenant or his Secretary varying on every change of those Offices.

Mr Robinson humbly begs leave to add to the Papers a private, and confidential Letter to him from the Attorney General of Ireland, expressive of his Opinion on the Duke of Leinster['s] tender of Support ; and also some Warrants which press for your Majesty's Signature if your Majesty shall so please.

Syon Hill
5° *Novr* 1780
25/*m p* 5° P:M:

No. 3174—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty two Extracts from letters of Lord Percy, by which His Majesty will see his Lordship's opinion about a regiment of Dragoons, & the reason of his feeling his regiment particularly injured by being now sent to Ireland.

Lord North begs leave to return his Majesty his most humble & most grateful acknowledgements for his gracious enquiries after his health. He hopes that he is quite recover'd from his fever by the use of the Bark, & that he will require nothing but the repose of a day or two to regain his strength.

Sunday. Novr 9. 1780. ½ *pt* 2. P:M:

Enclosure No. 1.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Percy.

STANWICH *Octo*r 20th 1780.

I had the Pleasure of receiving Your Letter of the 20th by the last Post, and tho' no Power can accuse me of ever objecting to my Regiment going anywhere, when it is its Tour so to do, Yet I own I cannot conceive why it is to be sent out of its Turn to any place—We left Ireland only in the Year 1774, after having been on that Establishment Eleven Years—We are now just returned to England and are to be sent to Ireland again, when the 6th 10th 13th 14th 25th 26th 48th 50th 52d 59th all of them left Ireland before Us, & together with the 45th have been in England & returned from Service long before Us. I have purposely left out the 1st 2d 69th and others who I understand are orderd for Foreign Service—Now I cannot see any Reason why all Regulations are to be broke thro' on purpose to do me the singular Favor of sending my Regiment to Ireland unless the great Desire Ministers have on every Occasion to shew how much they wish to oblige Me whenever they have it in their Power, but I take it for granted as was the Case respecting the Admission of Marine Officers in the new Levies a new Regulation is made suitable to the present Occasion, and instead of it's being a Rule that the Regiment's who first return to England are first to go out of it, the Regulation now is, that those who last arrive, are to be the first to go again till the next Relief.

Enclosure No. 2.

Extract of a Letter from Lord Percy.

Stanwich Octr 27. 1780.

I feel myself much obliged to Lord North for the part You say He has taken in My Business. It is not without reason that I complain, as there are no less than Eleven old Regiments besides new Levies & Those going on Service whose tour it is to go to Ireland before the 5th. With regard to a Regiment of Dragoons I hope They will on no Account think of it, for I never

will change, willingly, the 5th for any other, except Guards or Blues. Indeed I know well was I to accept of a Regiment of Dragoons I should be only abused, & I think justly too, by the disappointed Candidate. If therefore there is any such Intention I must beg you will stop it. As the Guards or Blues are not vacant at present, any Arrangement about the Ordnance would please me; or as that perhaps even cannot be effected, any proper Mark of Distinction & assurance of their future Intentions accompanied with some Mark of Favor to the Regiment or Officers; as a Regiment for Meadows or some Distinction bestow'd on the Regiment for it's Services. as it's being made Royal or having it's second Colour changed from Green to St George's (white with a red Cross) as a Distinction for it's Services in America &c, & there is also a plea for this, as St George is the Badge of the Corps. I am sure I am not unreasonable in My Wishes.

No. 3175—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 341.

Windsor Castle *Nov* 5*th* 1780.

$\frac{m}{10}$ *p*^{t} 9 P.M.

It is with infinite pleasure I received Ld North's account that He is quite recovered, and trust that by not coming out before Wednesday His strength will be regained; He will have the proper answer prepared for the Address on that Day. Ld. Percy's letters are very suitable to that peevish temper for which He has ever been accused; He begs the Question as to the 5th being sent to Ireland; no one proposed it but from the necessity of Sending three Compleat Regiments from hence to the W. Indies, and three from Ireland to N. America, consequently the three Regiments without Men the 4th 5th & 49th were ordered to Ireland as the quickest mode of recruiting them; I shall consider whether it is feasible to grant any distinction as to the Colours of the 5th Regiment before I make any answer to that idea.

No. 3176—*Lord North to the King.*

In consequence of the Permission given by Your Majesty, the Dispatch to S^r^ Joseph Yorke drawn in conformity to the Resolution of the Meeting were sent off on Saturday Morning. The whole is now laid before Your Majesty.

St James's *Nov^r^* 6. 1780.

$\frac{13}{m}$ P.M.

No. 3177—*The King to Lord North.*

Queen's House *Nov.* 7^th^ 1780

$\frac{m}{2}$ *p^t^* 9 P.M.

The answer to the Address from the Commons is very proper. Ld. North will acquaint Ld. Hinchinbroke that I will receive the Address tomorrow at two o'Clock.

No. 3178—*Lord North to the King.*

I have seen the Duke of Roxburgh who was earnest in his Sollicitation with Me to recommend to Your Majesty Mr Oliver to be Deputy Sherif of Roxburghshire as the whole County is unanimous in the Recommendation of Mr Oliver who is every qualified for the office I presume to submit him to Your Majesty for Your Approbation.

St James's *Nov^r^* 12. 1780

$\frac{13}{m}$ *p. one* P.M.

No. 3179—*The King to Lord North.*

Queens House *Nov.* 14^th^ 1780

$\frac{m}{15}$ *p^t^* 9. A.M.

I cannot return the Warrants I have signed without accompanying them a Line to express the pleasure at finding Ld. North is recovered from his late indisposition.

On the receipt of the extract Ld. North sent me some days ago of a letter from Ld. Percy, I conferred the Carabiniers on Sir John Irwin ; Colonel Meddow's Levies are so well known to Me that He cannot fail of meeting with marks of my Approbation when suitable Occasions Offer ; I am sorry the expectations of Ld. Percy are of such Magnitude as I do not see without great injustice to others how I can ever comply with them.

No. 3180—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

I am ashamed to trouble Your Majesty at this late Hour with such Voluminous Draughts but it was not possible for me to get them finished sooner. I have endeavoured in My Secret Letter to S^{r} R. Keith to avail Myself of the Idea which Your Majesty was pleased to suggest to me yesterday. I am persuaded that the Emperor would adopt a Projet of this Kind but I doubt whether the Empress has now the same spirit of Enterprise and activity of Mind. I endeavour to make the Drt so as keep clear of all Promise or Engagement whatever.

St. James's *Nov^{r}* 14. 1780.

No. 3181—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

S^{T} James's *Nov^{r}* 15. 1780
$\frac{5}{M}$ P.M.

The Letters which Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to send me are very important indeed and will deserve the Most Serious Consideration. It strikes me upon the first View of this Business that the two great objects to be aimed at are to keep the contest with Holland quite distinct from the Neutral League, and to defeat if possible all it's Various hostile Intentions by avoiding every Dispute with Russia.

No. 3182—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

M^{r} Robinson has had the Honour to receive Your Majestys Commands at this place and will obey them. He has repeated

to the Clerk of the Treasury the orders he had sometime ago given, and has directed that Copies shall be again made for Lord North against his return, of the Papers which were prepared, necessary for His Lordship to form his Judgement upon, and to enable him to state the Business fully to Your Majesty, for Your Majesty's decision—Mr Robinson feels most sensibly and most dutifully Your Majestys condescending Goodness to him in the Inquiry Your Majesty graciously deigns to make. Mr Robinson thinks he has received benefit by Sea bathing.

MICHAELSTOW NEAR
HARWICH.
4° *Octr* 1780.
4° P:M:

No. 3183.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy.

at Ld Presidents Novr 18. 1780.

Present.

The whole Cabinet except Ld Privy Seal who is not in Town.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majty as the opinion of this Meeting that an additional Instruction should be given to the Commanders of His Majesty's Ships of War and Privateers for stricter Conformity to the Articles of the Russian Treaty than has hitherto been used in fact.

No. 3184—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

I venture to trouble Your Majesty with the two Dutch Mails, as the Dispatches are of Importance. I send also a Copy of the Minute of yesterday, and as it was the unanimous opinion that this additional Instruction should if possible precede any formal Complaint from the Court of Petersburgh I will endeavour to get it prepared so as to be laid before Your Majesty tomorrow.

ST JAMES'S *Sunday Novr* 19. 1780.
$\frac{45}{m}$ *P. two.* P.M.

No. 3185—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Nov*^{r} 20. 1780.

I venture to trouble Your Majesty with an application made to me in favour of Thomas Humphries who remains for execution on Wednesday next, because there is a Circumstance which was not known when the Recorder made his Report to Your Majesty. It was then understood that Humphries was guilty of two Robberys, but there is now strong Reason to believe that He was innocent of the first, the Man who was really guilty of that Robbery having actually confessed it, tho he afterwards withdrew his Confession, on being informed that it might affect his Life. I understand that this Humphries bore a very good character in the Regiment (first Reg^{t} of Guards) he is only 23. and from the Turn of his letter to S^{r} Edward Astley seems to have had an Education above his Rank. He says that when he got out of Prison he was totally destitute, and that it was absolute Necessity that drove him to commit the Robbery for which he is now under Sentence of Death.

The particulars with which I trouble your Majesty I know only from Lady Astley's Report of them to me.

No. 3186—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending to his Majesty for his signature, if approved, a Warrant appointing M^{r} Garth, Com^{r} of Excise in the room of M^{r} Bowyer; When his Majesty shall have signed the Warrant, the Writ for the Devizes may be moved.

Downing S^{T} *Tuesday.*
Nov. 21st 1780.

No. 3187—*The King to Lord North.*

On coming home, I have found Ld. North's Box containing a Warrant Appointing M^{r} Garth Member for the Devizes a Commissioner of the Excise, which having Signed I instantly return as it may be useful to have his Seat vacated this Day.

Queens House
Nov. 21st 1780.

$\frac{m}{46}$ p^{t} 2 P.M.

No. 3188.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy. at L[d] North's Nov[r] 21. 1780.

Present

All the Cabinet except L[d] Privy Seal who is not in Town.

Agreed that the Intelligence received from S[r] James Harris of the Empress of Russia's intending to offer her Mediation should be immediately communicated to S[r] Robert Keith (without mentioning the channel,) that He may be enabled to sound how far the Court of Vienna has interposed in that Business.

No. 3189—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *Nov[r]* 21. 1780.
$\frac{45}{m}$ *P. Nine* P.M.

The Dispatches which I am preparing for S[r] Robert Keith agreeable to the Minute of this day will be ready to be laid before Your Majesty in about half an hour, but I cannot presume to trouble Y[r] Majesty with them at so unreasonable an Hour without Your express Permission.

No. 3190.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy. at L[d] Sandwich's. Nov[r] 25, 1780.

Present.

The whole Cabinet except L[d] Privy Seal who is not in Town.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty as the opinion of this Meeting that the properest manner of carrying into Execution the Expedition to the River Plate approved in a former Minute is by the addition of the Ships and Forces going

to the East Indies which are to assist only the *first* operations and are to proceed on their intended Service whatever be the Event of them.

L^d^ Carlisle having signified through L^d^ Hillsborough a Wish to attend the Cabinet in order to state some Points relative to Ireland, it is agreed that L^d^ Hillsborough should say to Lord Carlisle that it is unusual for the L^d^ Lieut of Ireland to receive His Majesty's Commands any otherwise than through the Secretary of State for the Southern Departments.

No. 3191—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 341.

QUEENS HOUSE *Nov.* 28^th^ 1780

$\frac{m}{40.}$ p^t 9. A.M.

Nothing could more strongly shew the venom of Opposition than the making a long Altercation Yesterday on the proposed thanks to Sir Henry Clinton and Ld. Cornwallis when they did not intend to divide. I return a number of empty Boxes as I suppose Ld. North may be in want of them.

No. 3192—*The King to Lord North.*

It is very much of a piece with the rest of the illiberal conduct of the present Opposition the having let the Army be voted in the Committee of Supply and on the report attempting to recommit it, and dividing on that Subject; but the event shews that it was not less contemptible than froward.

QUEENS HOUSE
Nov. 28^th^ 1780

$\frac{m}{23.}$ p^t 8 PM.

No. 3193—*The Duke of Chandos to the King.*

SIRE—Your Majesty's Goodness to me upon all Occasions induces me humbly to lay this Letter at your Feet, being prevented the Honour of approaching your Royal Person, by a Confinement to My House from a Fall.

The gracious Expressions which Lord North informed me Your Majesty was pleased to make use of, in My Favour, upon the Application I presumed to make to Succeed the late Duke of Ancaster, "that though you then thought it right to give the Preference to the Duke of Northumberland, yet that you wished to see Me employed in your Service." From that gracious Reception of my first Application, I beg Leave to make a Second for that high Office, which I understand Either is, or soon will be vacant by the Resignation of the Duke of Northumberland.

The having the Honour to Serve your Majesty is the great Object of My Ambition: My Constant Attachment to your Majesty's Person & Interest will I hope intitle Me to this Mark of your Royal Favour.

I have the Honour to be with the profoundest Respect, Sire, Your Majesty's Most dutifull & Faithfull Subject CHANDOS

30 *Nov*^{r} 1780.

No. 3194—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The Letter to M^{r} Eden is agreeable to what I understood to be Your Majestys Intentions, I thought I might safely venture to send the Dispatch to S^{r} R. Keith, as it seemed important not to delay it, and as the Tenor of that Dispatch is exactly conformable to what Your Majesty has already approved.

S^{T} JAMES's *Dec*^{r} 3. 1780.

No. 3195—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour to inform His Majesty, That, Lord Lisbourne having moved for 100,000 men, M^{r} Hussey proposed 110,000. The Debate which lasted till a quarter after nine ran upon the general conduct of the Navy, & was at last finished by a division upon the first number.

Ayes .. 143.
Noes .. 73

DOWNING S^{T} *Dec*^{r} 4 [1780] $\frac{m}{35}$ *p:*st 9 P.M.

No. 3196—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 342.

QUEENS HOUSE. *Dec. 5th.* 1780
$\frac{m}{46}$ *pt.* 7 A.M.

On coming late from the Play last night, I found on my Table Ld. North's Box containing the business that had been transacted that day in the House of Commons, by which I see but little was said on the business of the day, but much illiberal Altercation with Sir Hugh Palliser, and Ld. Howe and Adm. Keppel as usual trying to shew their own significance which they certainly have not Oratory to convince the House of, particularly when their conducts this War cannot justify the Assertions.

No. 3197.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy.

at Lord Stormont's Office. Decr. 6. 1780

Present

The whole Cabinet except Lord Privy Seal who is not in Town.

Agreed that a Second Memorial be drawn to be sent to Sr. Joseph Yorke pressing for a satisfactory answer to that already deliver'd.

No. 3198.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy.

at Lord George Germain's. Dec. 7. 1780

Present

The whole Cabinet except Lord Privy Seal who is not in Town.

A Memorial to be presented by Sr. Joseph Yorke was read and with some alterations agreed to. It is the opinion of this Meeting that this Memorial should be sent tomorrow to Sr. Joseph Yorke with orders to Him to present it immediately unless he has already rec^{d} an answer to the first Memorial.

No. 3199—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The Dispatch now submitted to Your Majesty is drawn in conformity to the Resolution of yesterday, and if this Dispatch and the Memorial meet with Your Majesty's approbation it is proposed to send them immediately to Sir J. Yorke by Special Messenger.

St. James's. *Decr.* 8, 1780.
$\frac{55}{M}$ P.M.

No. 3200—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty. *Dec. 8th* 1780.
6 *o'clock* P.M.

Lord Sandwich hopes that your Majesty will forgive his troubling you with the enclosed papers brought by Captain Hope of the Crescent.

Captain Hope is now with Ld. Sandwich, and he thinks that there is allmost a certainty that Admiral Darby must meet with d'Estaing: the winds were such that it was impossible for d'Estaing to make the coast of France & as Captain Hope did not fall in with Darby, it is scarcely possible that either Captain Man or Captain Macbride should have done so; as they all three steered different courses & that Mr. Darby was not far off.

Captain Man & Captain Macbride intended to remain in search of Admiral Darby till the 30th of November.

No. 3201—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 342.

Windsor Castle.
Dec. 10th, 1780.

From the moment I received from Lord North the Accounts, as far as they could be ascertained, of the Establishments of my late Father, as well as those when I was placed under the care of Governors, and afterwards the one that took place when I attained the age of eighteen, I have been examining them, and finding the last Establishment not so exact as my remembrance dictated it might be stated; I ordered Mr. Mathias to prepare

a Copy of that establishment and an Abstract of the Accounts of my late Treasurer during that period, of which I enclose copies for Ld. North ; I then considered that in Addition to my Eldest Son's Establishment I must furnish the incidental Expenses to my Second Son's travelling and education, and the taking the three oldest Boys now in the Nursery and placing them with Men, this I felt would require much deliberation, the result of which I will now fully State.

My late Father when He came to England was near twenty two, consequently of Age, Yet his number of Attendants was not very numerous, even this cannot be looked upon as an exact rule for me to follow, for my Son is only eighteen, and though by Law he would be of Age if it should please the Almighty to put a period to my life before he attains the age of twenty one, that event not happening he can only be in a middle State between Childhood and Manhood, besides it is ever better that Persons should feel that their situations will by degrees improve, and particularly Young persons ; it is by launching them all at once in the World and not being properly guided that the Youth of this Country turn out so little to their own credit, or the advantage of the State.

I have therefore in this view formed an honourable Establishment and given my Son for Robes and Privy Purse the exact Sum I had ; His Stables will be more expensive in point of Saddle Horses, I keeping at that time but four, He will have Sixteen ; but by appointing a Groom of the Stole instead of a Master of the Horse, a Set of Horses and two footmen are diminished which alone attended that Officer in the first Establishment of my late Father : As my Son will live in my House He cannot have any Occasion for those Servants necessary only if He kept House ; I have also wished to keep his number of Attendants as moderate at first as possible, yet it is similar as much as the different natures will admit of, to the first Establishment of my late Father ; the difficulty I find of having persons whose private conduct I think may with safety be placed about a Young Person is not surprising as I thank Heaven my Morals and course of life have but little resembled those too prevalent in the present Age, and certainly of all objects in this life the one I have most at heart, is to form my Children that they may be useful examples and worthy of imitation ; I shall there-

fore be scrupulous as to the private lives of those I place about my Son, though in other cases I never wish to be informed, unless of those great enormities that must make every man of principle shun the company of such Persons; but in the case of my Children my happiness as well as the good of the Public is materially concerned in this investigation.

Lord North seemed to insinuate that if the whole Additional Expence of my Children did not exceed £30,000, He thought the money could be found; I have tried to keep it to £20,000, because from the very numerous familly I have, it is impossible to Lodge them, and I must make some Alterations for that purpose in the Wings of the Queen's House. St. James's is so full that I cannot place any more of them there; besides, I find the placing of them in different habitations a great additional expence, as it ever occasions a great increase of Household Servants. For the present I must from necessity send the three boys I mean to take out of the Nursery to Kew.

I hope on Wednesday to State to Lord North the persons I mean to place about my Eldest Son and as a friend, not a Minister, to hear his opinion before I let any of the parties know my intentions except Ld. Southampton who I intend for Groom of The Stole, Lieut. Col. Hotham as Treasurer, Mr. Lyte as Master of the Robes and Privy Purse and Lieut. Col. Lake as first Equerry and Commissioner of the Stables.

When the Establishment takes place I shall appoint the D. of Montagu Master of the Horse in the room of the D. of Northumberland, his behaviour whilst he has had the care of my Children entitle him to my warmest regard.

Draft and fair copy in the King's handwriting.

No. 3202.

Copy. MINUTE OF CABINET.

at Lord Stormont's Office. Decr. 11, 1780.

Present:

The whole Cabinet except Ld. Privy Seal who is not in Town.

It is the opinion of this Meeting that a Connexion between England, Austria & Russia would be highly beneficial to this

Country and that Sir R. Keith should be instructed to pave the way to it by such means as may occur to Him.

No. 3203—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The Dispatches now submitted to Your Majesty were drawn in consequence of and conformity to the Resolution of last night's Meeting. If they are approved by Your Majesty it is intended to redispatch Sir R. Keith's Servant immediately.

St. James's. *Decr.* 12, 1780.

No. 3204.

List of the Westminster Committee of Association taken December 14th, 1780.

[Here follows a list of 171 names. The Hon. Charles Fox, Chairman; John Frost, Secretary; the Dukes of Devonshire, Portland and Surrey; 17 more peers including Lords Shelburne and Temple; Isaac Barré, Richard Fitzpatrick, Thomas Grenville, and John Wilkes are among others.]

No. 3205—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

I beg leave to lay before Your Majesty a Letter this moment received from Major General Sir William Erskine to the Adjutant General, and as Sir William Erskine declines taking the Command, I beg leave to submit to Your Majesty's pleasure, whether the Command of the intended Expedition may be offered to Colonel Meadows, and that he might have the local Rank of Major General for the Expedition.

Amherst.

Near Whitehall.
½ *after* 12 p.m. 16*th December*, 1780.

No. 3206—*Lord North to the King.*

[17 *December*, 1780.]

Lord North was, by a variety of persons who broke in upon him on Friday last, detained at home till five o'clock in the afternoon & thereby prevented him paying his duty at S^{t} James's. Between four and five in the afternoon, He received the enclosed

letter, which he gave to Lord Hillsborough who was present for His perusal, He received it yesterday from His Lordship, & show'd it to Lord Stormont, but with those two exceptions, He proposes to observe strictly the secrecy recommended by his correspondent; It will be rather difficult to draw a proper answer; Lord Stormont wishes that none may be sent till after he has made a return to the suggestion of Mediation from the Empress of Russia.

Lord North is afraid that the step we have been obliged to take with respect to Holland will greatly increase the difficulties of raising this Year's supplies. He will endeavour to do his best but he thinks it his duty again to submit to his Majesty, that he feels his strength of body & of memory impair'd, & that he is doubtful whether he shall be much longer able to carry through his Majesty's business in the manner which his Majesty would wish to see it carried on.

Bushey Park. *Sunday Even^g*

No. 3207—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 345.

Windsor Castle *Dec.* 18*th* 1780.

$\frac{m}{22}$ *p^t* 10 A.M.

Within these few Minutes I have received Lord North's letter accompanying the Secret he has recieved from M^r Necker; it shews France is certainly in greater difficulties than we imagined or She would [not] by Such various Channels seem to court Peace; no one has more inclination or interest in wishing so desirable an event as myself provided it can be obtained on honourable and Solid terms; with France it [is] easily to be settled if She would desist from encouraging Rebellion and not add to Her insults by wanting to affect Independency which whether under its apparent name, or a truce is the same in reality; till She gives up that view I do not see how Peace can be a safe measure.

I do not doubt but the embarassments with Holland must to a degree affect the new Loan, but as it is not our fault Lord North must do for the best and not repine at the evil that arises

from the conduct of faithless Allies not from either the wish or heat of War Councils.

No. 3208—? *to Lieut.-General Amherst.*

ADDESCOMBE PLACE,
18th *December* 1780.

DEAR SIR—The conversation I had with Colonel Williamson related to the very small Success which the Additional Companies have lately had in Recruiting.

It appears by the Weekly Returns that the Numbers now obtained are not much more than a third of what they used to be when these Companies were first raised: though the number of Companies now employed in this Service, is I believe, considerably greater than it was then. And I am the more struck with this deficiency, as the present Season of the year is the best of any for Recruiting; and as there is no pretence to say that their want of success is owing to new Levies, of which there are none raising at present.

In conversation with Colonel Townsend, He stated among many other difficulties that occur'd the four following which may perhaps be capable of some Remedy: First, the numbers that were taken by the Volunteer Companies added to the Militia, which might otherwise enlist in the Army.

To this a remedy is already provided. At my recommendation a Bill has been brought into the House of Commons, for repealing the Law by which these Companies were first established; so that no more of them can be raised.

Secondly, the Draughting of the Additional Companies, by which the Colonels of Regiments and their Officers felt themselves no longer interested in obtaining a number of men for the purpose of completing their own Reg:ts as their Recruits might very likely be immediately taken from them and sent to others Corps: this consideration destroys all Zeal and prevents them from exerting themselves as they otherwise might do; and if I mistake not, Colonel Townsend informed me that this method of drafting had been carefully avoided when these Companies were first raised, and had not been practised to any extent untill within the two or three last Years.

I earnestly wish that you and Lord Amherst would take

this point into your serious consideration, and see whether it may not be better for the Service in general to come to some Regulation on this head, and by making it known to induce the Colonels and Recruiting Officers of the respective Regiments to exert themselves as much as possible to compleat their own Corps.

Thirdly, the Non Commissioned Officers sent home on this Service are very bad men and particularly unfit for this business. I submit to your consideration whether this should not be looked into very minutely ; whether those who are very bad should not be dismissed, and those unqualified for this particular duty, be returned to their Regiments, and others appointed in their room.

Fourthly ; that the Officers employed in the Recruiting Service were neglected by the Commanders in Chief abroad, and had not justice done them in their promotion. If this is so, I am sure it ought to be remedied, and it appears to me a Subject very worthy of lord Amherst's attention.

I thought it right to state these circumstances to you, though I am not sure that anything effectual can be done to remedy these Evils. I can only say that if the Recruiting Service goes on declining as it has done of late, the numbers of the old Regiments will gradually diminish, so that there will not be one of them properly compleat for Service.

After having made the best inquiries I am able, I am not clear that there is at present in this Country any great want of men : if this were the case, the evil would certainly be without remedy, but in a conversation I had with Colonel Fullarton who is the last that has raised a new Corps, He told me honestly that He had much less difficulty in raising the last 1500 men than his first number, & that they cost him much less ; He thought the charge of them upon the whole might be about 9£ a man.

If any measures can be taken in consequence of what is above suggested, no time should certainly be lost: Besides the consideration arising from the immediate want of men, such a measure should precede the Establishment of the New Companies ; and it should be observed that the best season for Recruiting wears away apace.

I have, etc.

Copy, unsigned.

No. 3209—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

It was the opinion of Your Majesty's Confidential Servants when they met on Saturday last that it would be expedient that a Manifesto should be immediately published and that if possible it should appear in tomorrow's Gazette.

This cannot be unless Your Majesty should be graciously pleased to appoint a Council for tomorrow Morning. The Dr^t^ of the Manifesto is prepared and will be laid before the Cabinet this Evening.

S^T^ JAMES's *Dec^r^* 18. 1780.

No. 3210—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

At the Meeting of this Evening it was judged expedient to defer the Manifesto till Wednesday next, as the publishing it before the *Possibility* of receiving an answer to the last Memorial, might appear too precipitate, and might lead to a Discovery of that Reason which it is meant to conceal.

ST. JAMES's. *Decr.* 18. 1780
Eleven o'Clock P.M.

The Messenger who carries this Note has my orders to be at Windsor by seven o'Clock tomorrow Morning.

No. 3211—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

I will not defer an Instant the dispatching a Messenger to Yr. Majesty with a Letter which I understand is from Admiral Digby.

The answer from the States or rather the no Answer will remove every difficulty and make the immediate Publication of the Manifesto highly proper it must now undergo some little alteration but shall be ready for the Council of tomorrow.

S^T^. JAMES's. *Dec.* 19. 1780.

No. 3212—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

S[T] JAMES'S. 19*th December* 1780.
$\frac{m}{40}$ *past* 2 P.M.

Lord Hillsborough begs leave to observe to Your Majesty that Lord Erne, who is recommended by Lord Buckinghamshire to be promoted to the Degree of Viscount in Ireland, is married to Lord Bristol's Daughter, a Circumstance not known when he had the honour to lay the List before Your Majesty, & was omitted among others on account of the number recommended. Lord Stormont observes upon it that it may possibly affect Lord Bristol's conduct; there is no objection to the doing it if Your Majesty is pleased to approve of it, but if delayed Lord Erne will lose his rank, & it may be considered as having been omitted by mistake. Lord Hillsborough has written to Lord North upon this Subject, and has the Honour to send his answer to Your Majesty; and has also sent a Warrant for His Creation in case Your Majesty should be pleased to approve of it, leaving a Blank for the Title, as it is not proper Lord Erne should be consulted untill Your Majesty's pleasure is known. If Your Majesty is pleased to consent, Lord Erne's Precedency will be immediately before Lord Irnham—which will occasion some alteration in the Dates submitted to Your Majesty.

No. 3213—*Lord North to the King.*

[*December*, 1780.]

Lord North has the honour of apprizing his Majesty that Lord Carlisle is waiting for an audience of his Majesty before he goes into the country, and may possibly speak to his Majesty upon the subject of Ireland; Lord North has mentioned Lord Carlisle's wishes to Lord Hillsborough, but not yet to any other member of the Cabinet, & really believes, that if there is no Coalition, he is the properest person to be Lord Lieutenant; In the case of a Coalition Lord Carlisle will be ready to give way.

ANTICHAMBER. $\frac{3}{4}$ *pt.* 2 P.M.

No. 3214—*Lord North to the King.*

[20 *December*, 1780.]

Lord North has the honour of requesting his Majesty's pleasure, whether he would chose that Lord Carlisle should kiss his Majesty's hand on Friday next. Lord Hillsborough has written to the Lord Lieutenant, but has not, & indeed, Lord North believes could not as yet have received his Excellency's answer. It does not appear to Ld. North that it is necessary to receive the Lord Lieutenant's answer before Lord Carlisle kisses his Majesty's hand, but Lord North thought it right to mention this circumstance to his Majesty, that a further day may be appointed for Lord Carlisle, if it should appear proper to his Majesty to wait the Lord Lieutenant's answer.

Downing Street. *Wednesday.* $\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 3.

No. 3215—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich takes the liberty to apprize Your Majesty that it is necessary that immediate orders should be given to the Board of Green Cloth to supply the Augusta with necessaries for his Royal Highness's table. It is intended, with your Majesty's approbation, that the Minerva shall be the principal Ship to convoy the Yatcht.

Admiralty.
Dec. 21*st.* 1780

No. 3216—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 346.

Queens House. *Dec.* 21*st.* 1780
$\frac{m}{8}$ *pt.* M.

As in a few days I shall appoint Lord Southampton as Groom of the Stole to my Son, the Queen consents that I should consult Lord North whether there may not be some man of rank in the

House of Commons who might suit the Office of Her Vice Chamberlain, it will certainly require a good deal of Attendance, but on the other hand it does not vacate a Seat in Parliament as any Employment under me does. Ld. Canteloupe, Col. Brudenel, and Lieut. J. Fitzroy were all married men and considering that in the Absence of the Chamberlain the Maids of Honour are under his direction it should seem that it would be more proper that the new one should be in the same Situation.

Mr. Harris is thought to be dying Lord North will also consider of a proper person that I may recommend to the Queen.

No. 3217—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY. *Dec. 25th.* 1780.

Lord Sandwich has the honour of sending to your Majesty the letter recieved this day from Sir Thomas Pye, & flatters himself your Majesty will approve his judgement & alertness in endeavouring to intercept the two Dutch men of War.

Mr. Colby one of the Commissioners of the Victualling died on Saturday last, & Lord Sandwich takes the liberty to ask your Majesty's permission to appoint Mr. Lance now Storekeeper of Woolwich Yard to succeed him. Mr. Lance has passed all his life in the service as Purser & Storekeeper, and will in Ld. Sandwich's opinion make a very good commissioner he is strongly recommended by Lord Dudley.

Mr. Corbet now one of the Commissioners of sick & hurt has applied to be appointed resident Commissioner upon the new Establishment at Hazlar Hospital, he is a very worthy man & attends very closely to his business, and is a particular friend of Lord Hinchingbrooke ; if your Majesty approves of his appointment at Hazlar, Lord Sandwich will have the honour of proposing a successor to him at the Board of Sick & hurt, when next he has the honour of paying his duty to your Majesty.

No. 3218—*Lord Dartmouth to the King.*

SIR—I should be very unworthy of your Majesty's good opinion, if I could suffer any one belonging to me to be put

about the Person of the Prince of Wales, whom I did not think fit to be entrusted with so important a situation. If I am not mistaken in my Son, your Majesty & the Prince of Wales will not be disappointed in your Expectations of him. Every fresh mark that I receive of your Majesty's favor & goodness to me adds to my happiness but can add nothing to the Respects & Reverence with which I am, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful & faithfull Subject & Servant DARTMOUTH.

SANDWELL.
25 *Dec.* 1780.

No. 3219—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 347.

WINDSOR CASTLE. *Dec.* 27*th* 1780

I now transmit to Lord North an exact List of the Persons I have on mature and anxious deliberation thought fit to place about my Eldest Son, I had the Satisfaction Yesterday to find him thoroughly satisfied on my giving Him the List of the Arrangement, as He felt that his good and no other motive had decided my Choice; I have in one instance departed from the line I originally had laid down to myself, by appointing one Young Man as his Groom of the Bedchamber, that is the Second Son of Lord Dartmouth, but the great and known piety of the Father and his having said he could answer for the Sageness of his Son, made me think it wiser to fix on him, than to be looking out for one Older who Might not in every particular answer so well.

Lord North will have the Warrant made out for the Establishment, as in any Case the Gentlemen will have no Warrants, and I believe their names should not be put into it as it would vacate their Seats in Parliament; Lieut. Col. Hotham is also to receive the Money for paying the Establishments of My Sons William and Edward which Accounts will be Stated by him to the Treasury in the same manner they were by the Duke of Montagu, He will also receive and pay the new Establishment of the three lesser Boys, who I shall now in a few days take out of the hands of the Women, as also the £5.000 I allotted for the travelling expenses of my Son Frederick.

I have wrote to the Duke of Northumberland this morning

to acquaint him as I had promised him the last time I saw him, that I will consent to his resigning, and on Friday that the Duke of Montagu will accept of His Office, which is the Day the D. of Montagu will bring the P. of Wales's new Gentlemen to be presented, that they may be able to attend my Son on New Year's day ; the Queen will also that Day appoint Lord Aylesbury Her Chamberlain.

I hope when Lord North comes to St. James's tomorrow he will be able to suggest Some proper person to Me to be recommended to the Queen as her Vice Chamberlain, as also one for Secretary it being certain that Mr. Harris is dead.

It will be necessary that Lieut. Col. Hotham should have some money in hand to satisfy the travelling expenses of my Son Frederick to Hanover, who goes on Saturday, as also for the purchase of the Additional Coach and Saddle Horses of the P. of Wales and issuing him some privy Purse Money, I should therefore propose Lord North should order a sum of £2.000 to be issued to Lieut. Col. Hotham for the immediate Wants ; the D. of Montagu will make up his Accounts to the 5th of January and the new Establishments ought to bear date from that Period.

Since writing the above I have spoke to the Queen who concurs with Me in desiring no other persons may be thought of for Her Secretary but Mr. North if the appointment can be agreable to Lord Guildford and You, [to] whom we always wish to shew marks of Regards it is an office that requires no great confinement.

No. 3220—*Lord North to the King.*

[27 *December*, 1780.]

Lord North has been so long delay'd in the Country That he is not arrived time enough to have any hopes of paying his duty at St. James's today without detaining his Majesty later that may be agreable to him. He has therefore taken the liberty to send him the names of such members of the House of Commons, who appear to him to answer most nearly the description in his Majesty's letter of a Vice-Chamberlain to the Queen. He understands that it is wish'd that the Person should be of a noble family, nearly related to a Peer, of genteel manners, good character, a married man, & not very young. Among the

Members of the House of Commons who are attach'd to Government. There appear to him but four persons who seem likely to do, & of those Lord North doubts whether it will suit any but one. The four names are

Majr Genl St John
Lord Algernon Percy
Mr Talbot
Mr de Grey.

He believes that the second and the third will object to the confinement & that Mr de Grey will not think to quit his seat at the Board of Trade. Genl St John will, probably not object to resign his present place for this exchange, but Lord North can not speak positively, as he has not thought it right to give the least hint, before he has received their Majesties pleasures.

Lord North has been press'd upon a subject, which he is ashamed to mention to his Majesty, but does not know where else to address himself. Mr. Brummell, Lord North's Secretary is a Military Agent, & is very ambitious of the agency of Prince Frederick's regiment. Lord North has had so long a connexion with Mr. Brummell, that he should be very happy to give him any assistance.

No. 3221—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 349.

Queen's House. *Dec.* 28*th.* 1780

Undoubtedly Lord North is very exact in stating that the Person wished to be found for the Office of Vice Chamberlain to the Queen should be of a noble Family, of genteel manners, good Character, a Married Man, and not very Young. I really believe the four Gentlemen whose names are stated are as good as can be found at present, the second and third I quite agree in opinion from the attendance would decline it, Mr. De Grey would certainly not resign the Board of Trade for it, besides his manner is certainly not quite genteel and from his hurry he might fill the Office but awkwardly ; Major Gen. St. John would certainly not chuse for the Addition of one hundred pounds to change his present Employment for one that requires so much

more attendance, besides his being on the Staff would prevent his being able to attend so much as the Office requires; I therefore think one requisite must be omitted that of a noble family, but one of a good Gentleman's family if the other particulars coincide must be pitched upon, I therefore desire to hear of some of that description.

I shall be inclined if Mr. Brummel behaves discreetly till Frederick gets a Regiment to recollect that Ld. North interests himself for him, but at present I do not see such a Regiment vacant as I shall think proper for my Son to be placed at the head of.

No. 3222.

Copy.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

at Ld. Amhersts. Decr 28. 1780.

Present

All the Cabinet except the Chancellor and Ld. Privy Seal.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that an Embargo be laid on the Exportation of all Salted Provisions to any of the Ports of France or Spain or the United Provinces and also to all Foreign Ports in the West Indies.

No. 3223.

Copy.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

at Lord Stormonts Office. Dec. 29. 1780.

Present.

Ld. President.
Ld. Sandwich.
Ld. Hillsborough.
Ld. North
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont.

As the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the East India Company have declared that the Rupture with Holland makes

it absolutely impossible for them to permit the East India Ships to go upon the intended Expedition to Buenos-Ayres It is therefore agreed by this Meeting to submit to His Majesty that the force designed for that Expedition which cannot take place without the India Ships be employed in an attack upon the Cape of Good Hope.

That all the Three Thousand Men sent upon this Service shall in case of success remain to keep Possession of the Cape, the Chairman & Deputy Chairman having promised on the Part of the Company to undertake the attack to be made in India upon Ceylon and other Dutch Settlements in Conjunction with Sr. Edward Hughes Squadron.

Agreed that if the attack upon the Cape should not succeed in that Case the two thousand Men originally intended for the East Indies do pursue their voyage thither, and the additional thousand with the Artillery Stores &c. originally allotted to them do go to the West Indies.

No. 3224—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

[? *December*, 1780.]

I have had two pretty long conversations with Mr. Middleton, in consequence of w^ch^ I have drawn the Letter to the Admiralty which is here submitted to Yr. Majesty. Mr. Middleton thinks that it is of great importance that the orders should be kept secret, and he promised to speak this day to Ld. Sandwich upon the subject.

No. 3225—*Lord North to the King.*

[? 1780.]

Lord North has the honour of acquainting his Majesty that either from the newness of the Box, or the badness of Ld. North's key, he cannot open the Box. That Mr. Robinson is out of Town, & no Locksmith to be met with, as it is a holiday. Lord North hopes it will be not thought troublesome or

impertinent in him to request for a moment the use of his Majesty's key.

Sunday afternoon.

No. 3226.

Minute of Meeting at Westminster Hall, 1780.

[1780.]

The Meeting at Westminster Hall today consisted of about Two Thousand Persons—great Part Spectators from Curiosity.

The Minutes of the Proceedings of the Committees were first read—after which

Mr. Fox spoke about Three Quarters of an Hour on the undue Influence of the Crown in the House of Commons particularly in preventing Sir Geo. Savile's General Motion & Mr. Burke's Clauses in his Bill from being carried—also in Lord North's appointing Comm^{rs} of Accounts on which he dwelt much. He admonished them to persevere in Associations & recommended Unanimity in the Public Cause. He stated that the Money raised was not to operate against the House of Bourbon only, but against our American Brethren & observed that We had totally lost America & also Ireland—that Ministers and the King's Advisers were endeavouring to divide the People, that by so doing they might be sooner conquer'd & their Liberties destroyed. That as He was nominated a Candidate for Westminster, it was His Duty to acquaint Them that if He was chosen, a steady adherence to their Welfare might be depended upon & that He should support the resolves of the Committees to check the Influence of the Crown and obtain a more equal representation of the People and Annual Parliaments &c. &c. &c.

After which—a Parchment, supposed to be an Association was produced & read. Mr. Sawbridge, Mr. Byng, Mr. Turner & another Gentleman spoke and the Meeting adjourned about half an hour after Two o clock.

The Meeting, in Appearance, was rather respectable.

No. 3227.

Draft of a Letter proposed to be written by the Secretary at War to Lord Amherst.

[1780 ?]

W. O.

My Lord—I am Commanded by the King to acquaint your Lordship, that His Majesty is pleased to order, that the Officers of any Regiment or Corps of Embodied Militia, who have Brevets or other Army Commissions of degree, superior to, or equal with, the Commissions they hold in the Militia, do serve and take Rank and Command, when encamped, quartered, or on Detachment with any other Corps of Militia, according to the Rank given them in such Brevets, or other Army Commissions; as far as the Rank of Colonel in the Army inclusive.

I have &c.

No. 3228—Memorandum.

Taxes 1781

Five per Cent upon the amount of the duties collected by the Excise except the duties on Malt Beer, Soap, Candles & Hides	150,000
Sum expected to arise from the abolition of Discounts in the receipt of the Custom House duties . .	167,000
Add[1] Duty of $1\frac{3}{4}$d per lb. on Tobacco . . .	61,000
Add[1] Duty of 4 Shillings, & eight pence per Cwt. of Sugar	326,000
	704,000
Annuity required as interest of the Loan . . .	660,000
Surplus . . .	44,000

No. 3229—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

I think it necessary to trouble Your Majesty with the two last Minutes as they are important, and as no Steps can be

taken towards carrying into Execution the Minute relative to the relief of Gibraltar, till it has had the Sanction of Your Majesty's Approbation.

St. James's. *Jan.* 2. 1781

There will be a Drt. to Sr. R. Keith and a Private Letter to Sr. J. Yorke which it has not been possible for me to get ready in time to send them to Your Majesty but as they will contain nothing of Importance I shall venture to send them by this Night's Mail.

Enclosure.

Copy.

Minute of Cabinet.

Jan. 1st. 1781

at Lord Sandwich's. Jan. 1st. 1781

Present

Ld. President
Ld. Sandwich
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. North
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont.

On Commodore Johnston's representation conveyed by Ld. Hillsborough that it will be necessary to have the addition of a fifty Gun Ship to give a greater Probability of Success to the intended expedition against the Cape of Good Hope Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that another Ship of fifty Guns be added to the Naval Force designed for the aforesaid Expedition which it is resolved should sail as soon as possible.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty as the Opinion of this Meeting that under all the Circumstances the Relief of Gibraltar tho' a hazardous Measure, ought to be attempted, that therefore Admiral Darby with four and twenty and if possible with six and Twenty Sail of the Line do proceed as soon as possible with the Convoy destined for the Relief of Gibraltar with Positive Orders to return without Delay so soon as this Service is effected.

No. 3230.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy.

Jan. 3, 1781.

at Ld. Sandwich's. Jan. 3. 1781

Present.

Ld. President.
Ld. Sandwich.
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. North.
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont.

Agreed that a Drt. be prepared of a Letter to Sr. James Harris instructing him to hold out to the Empress of Russia the Possibility of Cession of the Island of Minorca but for Great and Essential Service Actually performed.

No. 3231—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty two letters of intelligence from Paris.

The day Lord North left Town, He had a message from Lord George Gordon by Lieut. Colonel Woodford, giving him notice that he should be obliged to call on Lord North upon his trial to examine him [as] to certain conversations they had had together at different times. Mr. Woodford was likewise charged by Lord George to inform Lord North that he thought it necessary for his cause to publish on or before his trial the particulars of four conversations he had had with his Majesty, and to desire Lord North to apply to his Majesty in Lord George's name for his permission so to do. Lord George added that if it had not been in a case in which his life was concerned, He should not have presumed to apply for it. Lord North has stated the substance of a paper shewn to him by Mr. Woodford as well as he can from memory, but as Mr. Woodford was directed not to

permit any copy to be taken, Lord North may not be perfectly accurate. He thinks, however, there is no material mistake.

Bushey Park. *Jan.* 4. 1780 [*should be* 1781].

No. 3232—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 354.

Windsor Castle. *Jan. 4th.* 1781

$\frac{m}{39}$ *pt.* 6 P.M.

I trust that Lord North will be very careful what answer he gives to any Messages from Lord G. Gordon, indeed Silence seems to Me the proper rule of conduct on the Occasion; I shall at least follow that mode on the Application for publishing his four Conversations, certainly Ld. G. Gordon in his conversations with Me Stated nothing that can exculpate Him; He said if the restrictions on the Roman Catholicks taken off by Parliament were not repealed that the Petitioners would by force right themselves; He after that calls the meeting in St. George's fields and heads them this does not clear but in reality add to His Guilt.

No. 3233.

Minute of Cabinet.

Jan. 7. 1781.

Copy.

at Lord Stormont's Office.
Jan. 7. 1781

Present

Ld. President.
Ld. Sandwich.
Ld. Hillsborough.
Ld. North.
Ld. Amherst.
Ld. Stormont.

A Drt. of a letter to Sr. James Harris instructing Him to make an Insinuation with Respect to the Possibility of the Cession of

Minorca to the Empress of Russia but for Great and Essential Services actually performed was read & with some alterations—approved and it was agreed that it should be submitted to His Majesty.

No. 3234—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

Lord Hillsborough loses no time in sending to your Majesty the enclosed Letter which he received about half an hour ago: Lord Amherst doubts whether the Enemy can possibly be in Possession of the Island, altho' they may have landed. Lord Hillsborough has called the Cabinet, who will assemble immediately, in the mean time Lord Sandwich informs your Majesty what measures His Lordship & Lord Amherst have thought fit to take immediately.

Admiralty.
½ *past six* A.M.
8th January 1781

No. 3235.

Minute of Cabinet.

Jan. 8. 1781.

Copy.

at Lord Sandwich's. Jan. 8. 1781.
$\frac{30}{m}$ *p. Seven* A.M.

Present.

Ld. President.
Ld. Sandwich
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. Amherst
Ld. North
Ld. Stormont

In consequence of Intelligence just received by which it appears that the Capital of the Island of Jersey has been surprized by the French but that the Island may yet be preserved It is agreed That all the Soldiers of the 14th and 97th Regiments now on Board the Fleet at Portsmouth be taken and put on Board

such Ships of War or other ships as Sr. Thomas Pye shall direct and be sent instantly for the Relief of Jersey and the Protection of Guernsey.

Agreed that it is absolutely necessary to the Success of the Expedition intended for Gibraltar that these Soldiers if they are detained in the Service they are now sent on be replaced by an equal number of Good and effective Land Forces.

No. 3236.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Jan. 8. 1781.

Copy.

at Lord Sandwich's. Jan. 8. 1781.

Present.

Ld. President.
Ld. Sandwich.
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. North
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont

As the Dutch War makes it absolutely necessary to provide more effectually for the inward Defence of this Country, more particularly the Essex Coast, Thames, Medway & the eastern & Northern Coast agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty as the opinion of this Meeting that it is expedient to raise as soon as possible Eight thousand Men in Ireland to be upon the English Establishment. These Men to be raised in such Manner as shall be judged best either by Regiments or Companies.

No. 3237—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S. *Jan.* 8. 1781
Ten o'clock A.M.

I trouble Your Majesty with the three Last Minutes. Ld. Sandwich having written to your Majesty upon the subject of the Minute of this morning I can have nothing to add upon that very disagreeable Business. If your Majesty should approve of

the Letter to Sr. James Harris that is here submitted to you, it is proposed to send it tomorrow by Messenger. The Principal advantage expected from the Insinuation He is instructed to make, is that by presenting to the Empress of Russia the possibility of attaining an object worthy her ambition and of infinite Importance to Her, We may bring her to think seriously of an Intimate Union with this Country, or at least prevent her being seduced by our Enemies who are using every endeavour to engage her to espouse the Cause of Holland. If She catches at this Insinuation and comes forward with a Proposal, That Proposal will be the subject of great and Important Deliberation. The Business is certainly of infinite moment and the objections to such a Cession are very ably stated in a Letter I received from the Chancellor, who avoids giving a decided opinion as not sufficiently informed. The choice of Difficulties is all the present arduous situation admits of, & it appears highly important to use Every Endeavour to dispel if possible the Northern Storm.

This was one of the principal Reasons that decided those Resolutions which are now submitted to Your Majesty.

No. 3238—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

[? *January*, 1781.]

The Papers Marked *A.* & *B.* were read to Your Majesty's Confidential Servants on Saturday last and approved. The *Note* that accompanies them was not then prepared but it is in its Nature more of Compliment than business and seems to Me to follow exactly the Principles laid down in the above mentioned Papers. If the whole is approved by Your Majesty I propose delivering them to the Austrian and Russian Ministers, but it seems advisable to dispatch a Messenger to Vienna and Petersburgh with the Dispatches now submitted to Your Majesty if they meet with Your Approbation.

The Conduct of the Mediators is every way unworthy of them and directly contrary to what their own essential Interests demand. It necessarily adds to the Difficulty of a situation which seems to require uncommon steadiness & Temper, and calls upon your Majesty's Servants to endeavour to follow to the Utmost the Example You set them.

No. 3239—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *Jan.* 10. 1781

Your Majesty's strong and just Reasoning is further confirmed by the Nature of the Papers which M. Simolin has delivered. We executed his orders in the politest and most friendly Manner, but the Verbal Declaration framed by Panin is very unfriendly and peevish and purposely made so as I believe to draw an angry answer. This Intention it will I think be wise to disappoint, and not to give our enemies at Petersburgh a Pretence for catching at words.

The Dispatches from Sr. R. Keith which could not be decypherd till yesterday afternoon seemed to require immediate answers, and I thought I could venture to send them by last Night's Mail, as they turn wholly upon Points on which I have already received Your Majesty's Pleasure.

No. 3240.

Minute of Cabinet.

Jany. 11th, 1781.

Copy. at Lord Chancellor's. January 11. 1781

Present

All the Cabinet except Ld. Privy Seal who is out of Town.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that an immediate Reform be made in the Admiralty Court of Minorca that the present Temporary Judge be removed as soon as another can be sent to replace Him with a fixt Salary during the War, and that the Lord Chancellor be desired to find out a proper Person to send over.

No. 3241—*Lord Hertford to the King.*

Lord Hertford has the honor of acquainting the King that there is such a person as Mrs. Smith who lives at No. 39, Suffolk Street, was at the play last night & answers to the account

given of her in almost every particular. She is said to be a very masculine Woman near fifty years old & extraordinarily afflicted with the gout, but notwithstanding all those discouraging qualities is Kept by an old Gentleman in Charles Street, who sends his own Coach or she goes in a post chaise which he is likewise supposed to pay for. The litter is a mistake it is a kind of ladder or pair of steps which attaches her carriage in order to assist her gouty legs when She gets in or out of the Carriage.

GROS^{R} STREET.
Jan^{y} 12*th.* 1781.

No. 3242—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S. *Jan^{y}* 13. 1781.
4 *o'clock* P.M.

I trouble Your Majesty with the intended answers to M. Simolin which I propose to deliver to Him on Monday if they meet with your Majesty's approbation. It is evident that Count Panin means to provoke an Angry Answer, which seems to be a Reason for making the Papers to be delivered as civil as possible. The last letters from Sr. R. Keith seem to open a hope of such a Connexion between the two Imperial Courts as must in its consequences disappoint M. Panins insidious views and defeat all the Intrigues of the Prussian Cabal.

No. 3243—*Lord North to the King.*

[14 *January,* 1781.]

Lord North was detained by different visitors both on Thursday & Friday till it was too late for him to pay his duty at St. James's which obliges him to desire His Majesty's hand to the inclosed warrants, some of which require dispatch. The two principal warrants are for M^{rs} Harley & Drummond, & Lord North is sorry to inform his Majesty that the Extraordinaries of the Army are this year increased to an amazing degree. He is afraid that they will pass £3,000,000 & can not but confess his apprehensions of very great uneasiness in Parliament on that head. When Lord North speaks of Army Extraordinaries, he

means the Extraordinaries of the Troops serving in North America & the West Indies.

Endorsed by the King, Jany. 1781.

No. 3244—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 355.

QUEENS HOUSE *Jan.* 14*th* 1781.

$\frac{m}{27}$ *p*^{t} 5. P.M.

I have this instant Received the box with the Warrants the first having kept me in Town, I am sorry to find the extraordinaries of the Armies in North America and the West Indies have amounted to so immence a Sum and think so new regulations must be made to bring them within more moderate bounds ; which I should suppose if taken under consideration that though perhaps not so much retrenched as they might be yet the difference would be very considerable.

No. 3245—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The dispatches from Sir J. Harris which are this moment arrived cannot be sent to your Majesty till tomorrow as there is a good deal of cypher as far as I can judge by glancing my eye over one or two of the last of them the Contents are Not disagreeable.

ST. JAMES'S *Jan*^{y} 16. 1781.

$\frac{30}{m}$ *p. Ten* P.M.

No. 3246—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *Jan*^{y} 17. 1781.

$\frac{50}{m}$ *p. four* P.M.

The Letter 158 was not decyphered when I had the Honour of waiting upon Your Majesty. It is a Key to the Rest, and opens matter for a very important deliberation. The objections

to an offer of such a Cession were no doubt very strong, but the case in my poor Judgment would be considerably altered if Russia was to come forth with a fair proposal of assistance, secretly engage to take part in the war unless the Belligerant Powers agreed to make Peace upon the footing of the Treaty of Paris ; and have Minorca in consideration of such service actually performed and joined to a perpetual Defensive Alliance between the two courts. In that case the cession of Minorca would in fact as well as appearance be counterballanced by such a Peace & Alliance.

No. 3247—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

I would not presume to send a paper that is to be stated as seen and approved by Your Majesty without laying it before Your Majesty. I understood Your pleasure to be that I should send the letters drawn according to the Resolution taken without submitting them to Your Majesty which cannot be done if the Messenger is despatched early tomorrow morning.

St. James's *Jan* 19. 1781
$\frac{33}{m}$ *p. four* P.M.

No. 3248.

Minute of Cabinet.

20th Jan. 1781.

Copy.

At Lord President's
Jany 20. 1781.

Present.

Lord President
Lord Sandwich
Lord Hillsborough
Lord G. Germain
Lord North
Lord Amherst
Lord Stormont

Agreed that it be humbly submitted to His Majesty that the Military conduct of Moses Corbet Esqr Lieut. Governor of Jersey

upon the late Invasion of that Island appears to have been such as to make it proper and expedient to have him brought to a Court Martial immediately upon his arrival in this Kingdom.

No. 3249—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Jan* 20. 1781
$\frac{40}{m}$ *p. three* P.M.

The arrival of a Messenger from Vienna has necessarily occasioned a delay of some Hours. as it seemed necessary to take this opportunity of making the first general answer, I have ventured to express Your Majestys satisfaction in the very friendly answer given by the Emperor, and have declined saying any thing positive respecting the place of Treaty till the Empresses wishes upon that subject could be known, stating this as a proper attention to the Empress and the necessity of our being equally attentive to both Mediators.

The dispatches to Sir J. Harris and of Sir R. Keith swelled to such a size that it will not be possible to send the draft to your Majesty today. The four copies were made from my Brouillons. I have written fully to Sir R. Keith according to Your Majestys Instructions. Your Majesty will find in Sir J. Yorkes Letter a very comfortable account of the state of the French Finance.

No. 3250—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

S^{t} James's *Jan^{y}* 21. 1781
$\frac{15}{m}$ *p. four* P.M.

It was judged essential that no time should be lost in taking a step which from the manifest justice of it Lord Hillsborough and Lord Stormont were certain Your Majesty would approve, and therefore had no hesitation in giving necessary orders. The Business is fully explained in the papers now laid before your Majesty. The whole grace of what is done would have been lost had we waited for a complaint from Monsieur Simolin.

No. 3251—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Lords of the Cabinet assembled here are of opinion that an alteration should be made in the Message to be presented to the House of Commons tomorrow. viz. Instead of *The Spirit of their ancient Treaties.* They wish to insert *The Tenor of their engagements.* Lord North is extremely sorry to trouble his Majesty again upon the subject but he hopes that the Messenger will arrive at Windsor at a time when it will not be inconvenient to his Majesty to sign the Message. Lord North would send the former message to be cancelled, but it was sent to Lord North's in Downing Street & he has the honour of writing to his Majesty from Lord Stormont's office in Cleveland Row.

Lord Stormont's Office. *Monday. Jan.* 22. ½ *pt.* 10 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3252—*The King to Lord North.*

Windsor Castle. *Jan.* 23*rd*

1781 $\frac{m}{22}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

I cannot return the Message which I have signed to be delivered this Day to the House of Commons without just expressing to Lord North that I think the Alteration from the one I signed Yesterday evidently for the better.

No. 3253—*Lord North to the King.*

[24 *January,* 1781.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Extraordinaries of the Army have this day been voted by a great majority after a Debate which lasted till nine o'clock.

Ayes 180
Noes 57

No. 3254—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 356.

The Division last Night was a very handsome [one] and gives just reason to Suppose the House of Commons in good humour, I therefore have the most Sanguine expectations that if care is taken that nothing improper is by surprise brought into the House that Lord North will find this one of the least troubiesome Sessions He has been engaged in; great assiduity ought therefore to be employed that no delays arise in conducting the different points that must naturally come forward; it is not the real business but the waste of time that seems to give birth to the difficulties that arise towards the latter part of a Session.

QUEENS HOUSE.
Jan. 25th. 1781
$\frac{m}{56}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

No. 3255—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

PORTLAND PLACE. *Jan.* 26. 1781.

The House sat so late that it was not possible for me to send Your Majesty any account of the Debate.

The D. of Richmond tried to embarrass it by calling for more papers. Ld. President answered with great Propriety and Dignity something the Duke had said abt. corrupt administrations &c. The Duke of Chandos spoke ably and with very strong approbation of the Dutch War. wishing that Ministers had upon all occasions acted with the same Vigour. Lds. Shelburne & Camden were less able but still more mischievous than usual especially Ld. Camden who laboured to prove that the Empress of Russia was now bound in Honour to join in the War against us.

No. 3256—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 357.

QUEENS HOUSE. *Jan.* 27*th.* 1781

$\frac{m}{46}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

I am no farther Sorry for the House of Commons not being in a Situation to come with the Address this Day, [than] as it shews the unwillingness of Gentlemen to be Members of the Committees of Elections, which as the Law now stands is certainly an essential part of their Duty ; perhaps if the business can go on this Day that [*sic*] two o'Clock may be more convenient to the House than three on Monday, as the business will then be less interrupted by the presenting the Address.

No. 3257—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for His Majesty a Drât of a reply to the Address of the House of Commons. If it [be] equally convenient to his Majesty to receive the House of Commons at three o'clock, it will suit their business as well, & the House will not keep his Majesty waiting, which may happen, should an earlier hour be appointed, as it is very difficult to get a house much before three o'clock but if his Majesty prefers two o'clock Lord North will endeavour to have forty members at the House by that time.

Jan. 28. 1781.

No. 3258—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE. *Jan.* 28*th.* 1781

$\frac{m}{50}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

I had this Day directed Ld. Hinchinbroke to appoint three o'Clock for the time of receiving tomorrow the Address of the House of Commons ; I am glad to find by Ld. North's note that is the Hour that will be the most convenient ; the Answer to the Address is very proper.

No. 3259—*Charles Jackman to Lord Sandwich.*

DEAL *February* 1*st.* 1781.

MY LORD—I take the liberty of presenting your Lordship with a List of 55 Men I have engaged for the Marine Service, out of the Foreigners confined in the prison at this place: The prospect I had of further success, induced me to return again to Deal on Saturday last after sending off 42 Recruits from Canterbury for Head-Quarters, which is the reason of my not being in Town as I intended when I had the honor of writing to your Lordship on Thursday last: Since that time I am informed the Commanding officer at Chatham has received your Lordship's Commands for my going to Winchester. As I have engaged all the Men at this place that could be procured, fit for the Marine Service, I purpose setting off for Chatham tomorrow Morning, leaving behind Me a Recruiting Party to await the arrival of any prize having Men on board belonging to Neutral powers; and shall be at the Admiralty myself early on Monday, to receive such directions your Lordship may have ordered before I set off for Hampshire.

The Happiness I receive in being employed upon any Duty that I flatter myself I can discharge to the Satisfaction of your Lordship, makes me eagerly ambitious to receive and Execute your Commands upon every Occasion.

I have the honour to be, imprest with the Sincerest Gratitude, My Lord, Your Lordship's, Most Dutyful and much Obliged, Humble Servant CHARLES JACKMAN.

The List enclosed shows that the majority of the recruits were Germans, with a few Flemings and Hungarians and one Russian. They were prisoners of war.

No. 3260—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S. *Feb*^{y} 1*st.* 1781

$\frac{30}{m}$ *p. four* P.M.

I think it my Duty to inform Your Majesty that I have just had a long Conversation with the Mr. Dalrymple mentioned in

Mr. Barrington's letter. He was thirty years at Cadiz and left it abt. a year ago. He has promised to give me a particular account in writing of the Harbour of Cadiz, Fortification, Batteries, &c. The Result of the Conversation was that in his Judgment It is a place of uncommon Strength and that no feeble attack can be made upon the Harbour with any Prospect of success. How far it was possible for a swift sailing ship or two to run in and attempt to set fire to the Fleet he would not pretend to say.

No. 3261—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 357.

QUEENS HOUSE. *Feb^{y} 2d.* 1781
$\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

The question proposed by Mr. Fox on the Appointment of Sir Hugh Palliser to The Government of Greenwich Hospital was unjust and indecent as every thing that comes from that quarter naturally must be expected ; the amendment as proper and putting the whole in its true light as the author of it will always wish to Act, the Majority very handsome.

No. 3262—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY. *Feb. 8th.* 1781.

Lord Sandwich thinks it necessary to trouble Your Majesty with the perusal of a letter he has just received from Sir Thomas Pye ; Your Majesty will percieve from it that the fleet will be ready in all respects on Sunday next, and will therefore be able to judge precisely when it may be proper for Prince William to leave London.

As only 200 men are wanted (which according to Sir Thomas' proposal will be taken out of the Victory) this will probably be the best manned fleet that ever sailed from England. Lord Sandwich has reason to hope that Admiral Darby will sail with 26 ships of the Line.

Your Majesty will find in the box a New York Gazette of

the 6th of January, it came just now by express from Portsmouth & contains an account of a very serious & considerable defection from the Rebel Army.

No. 3263—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 358.

Before I received Lord North's note, I had read the New York Newspaper containing the very material intelligence of the considerable Mutiny in the Rebel Army, which I trust will be followed by the most material consequences.

The Queen has asked Me whether Lord North has not yet had any conversation or intimation of the ideas of Mr. Neville; I hope soon to know for it is not very right that the Office should long remain vacant.

QUEENS HOUSE.
Feb^{y} 8th. 1781.
$\frac{m}{40}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

No. 3264—*Lord North to the King.*

[8 *February*, 1781.]

Lord North received some time ago the inclosed letter from a Mr. Wraxall, but being totally ignorant of the person from whom it came he did not send it immediately & it was mislaid. He has just found it again, & believes the person from whom he received it to be the Member of Parliament for Hindon, who made the remarkable speech on this day seven night.

He has likewise the honour of informing his Majesty that Lord Edgcumbe accepts with much gratitude the step in the Peerage which his Majesty was graciously pleased to offer him through Lord North, & desires to have the title of Viscount Mount-Edgcumbe.

Thursday. Morg.

No. 3265—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 359.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Feb^{y} 9th.* 1781

$\frac{m}{55}$ *p* 11 A.M.

Lord North's supposition that the letter He transmitted this Morning came from Mr. Wraxall the Member for Hindon, proves very just, by former letters I have received from him ; I return it to Lord North, who may see the Gentleman, and settle with him any just demands he can have ; undoubtedly he was sent over by the discontented Nobility of Denmark previous to the Death of the late Queen my Sister with a plan for getting Her back to Copenhagen which was introduced to me with a letter from Her ; Her death, and my delicate Situation having consented to Her retiring into my German Dominions prevented Me from entering eagerly into this proposal.

Lord North may acquaint L^{d} Edgcumbe that He may any Day come to S^{t} James and be presented as Viscount Mount Edgcumbe, and will notify this promotion to the Secretaries of State that the Warrant and Subsequent Patent may be instantly prepared.

I have this Minute received Lrd North's Note L^{d} Edgcumbe may certain kiss hands this day.

No. 3266.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Feb. 10th 1781.

Copy.

At L^{d} Hillsboroughs Feb. 10. 1781

Present.

L^{d} Sandwich
L^{d} G. Germain
L^{d} North
L^{d} Amherst
L^{d} Stormont

Lord Amherst having declared that He has not Men sufficient for those Services that are indispensibly necessary, and it having

been represented from Ireland that Regiments may be raised there without difficulty.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty as a Matter of Great Moment in the present Crisis that Six Regiments of Foot be immediately raised in Ireland to be put upon the English Establishment this force to be in addition to the companies already ordered to be raised.

No. 3267—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 360.

QUEENS HOUSE *Feb* 15*th* 1781.

$\frac{m}{40}$ p^t 8 A.M.

Lord North has, I trust, spoke to L^d Southampton to state some one of the P. of Wales's family may be authorised if it should in the Debate be thought right just to drop that He is satisfied with the Arrangements I have made for him; for it would be highly indelicate for Me to speak to my Son on the Subject; indeed I have done for him all that could, in reason be expected from Me, and I have already grounds to judge the Extraordinaries from his love of Expence will be great besides some other calls for money that will come from that Quarter, which convinces me the more that if the fixed [income ?] had been greater that would not have prevented this other article.

I have at last met with a person to take care of my Younger Sons he was a Captain in the 58th Regiment and Served with Credit in the last War in America his name is Hayes, I therefore now Send Lord North the fixed sums necessary to be granted by Privy Seal bearing equal early date with that for the P. of Wales' Establishment payable to Lieut. Col. Hotham for my Son Frederick, My Sons William and Edward and My Sons Ernest, Augustus and Adolphus, which Lord North will order to be instantly prepared, the expenditures will be made out in the same manner they were by the D. of Montagu now by Lt. Col. Hotham.

No. 3268.

Establishment of Prince Edward and the Three Next Princes.

? Feb. 1781. (See the King's letter to Ld. North 15 Feb. 1781.)

Establishment of Prince Edward.

	£	s.	d.
Mr. Bruyeres			
Instructors :			
Mr. Fisher			
Mr. Farhill	200.	0.	0.
Page of the Back Stairs £80 & £20 for mourning .	100.	0.	0.
Page's Man	40.	0.	0.
Housekeeper	50.	0.	0.
Three Maids £20 each	60.	0.	0.
Porter	45.	0.	0.
Watchman	25.	0.	0.
	£1050.	0.	0.
Extraordinaries	600.	0.	0.
Table	2300.	0.	0.
	£3950.	0.	0.

Establishment for the next three Princes.

	£	s.	d.
Mr.	350.	0.	0.
Two Instructors, each £200	400.	0.	0.
Two Pages of the Back Stairs each £100 . .	200.	0.	0.
Pages' Man	40.	0.	0.
Porter	45.	0.	0.
Watchman	25.	0.	0.
	£1060.	0.	0.
Extraordinaries	1440.	0.	0.
Table & Housekeeping	2500.	0.	0.
	£5000.	0.	0.

No. 1 *Establishment.*

	£.	s.	d.
Governor	2500.	0.	0.
Preceptor	1000.	0.	0.
Sub-Governor	1000.	0.	0.
Sub-Preceptor	500.	0.	0.
Two Gentlemen Attendants, each £400	800.	0.	0.
German Master	200.	0.	0.
French Master	200.	0.	0.
Writing Master	200.	0.	0.
Dancing Master	200.	0.	0.
Sempstress	200.	0.	0.
Clerk of the Stables	121.	0.	0.
Accomptant	60.	0.	0.
Three Pages of the Back Stairs, each £121	363.	0.	0.
Servant to Do.	50.	0.	0.
Four Footmen, each £40	160.	0.	0.
Coachman	45.	0.	0.
Postillion	20.	10.	0.
Helper	20.	10.	0.
Groom	25.	0.	0.
Hobby Groom	45.	0.	0.
Housekeeper & Necessary Woman	71.	10.	0.
Three Maids each £25	75.	0.	0.
Porter	50.	0.	0.
Watchman	25.	0.	0.
	7931.	10.	0.
Allowances granted :			
Two late Sub-Preceptors, one £500 the other £400	900.	0.	0.
Late Clerk of the Stables	60.	10.	0.
	£8892.	0.	0.

£

5.000 per Annum for my Dearly Beloved Son P. Frederick
2.500 per Annum for my Dearly Beloved Sons P. William & P. Edward
3.500 per Annum for my Dearly Beloved Sons P. Ernest & P. Augustus & P. Adolphus

11.000

Printed. Donne II. 361.

A Calculation of the Expences of His Royal Highness Prince Edward's Table for Twelve Months commencing the first day of June 1779. and ending the thirty first day of May 1780

	£	s.	d.
Kitchen	1519	3	0
Spicery	93	11	0
Beer and Ale	92	8	0
Bread	107	4	1½
Desert	357	0	0
Wines	115	18	0
Butter and Cheese	37	6	0
Supposing H.R. Highness to dine at home every day	£2322	10	1½
In these twelve Months H.R.H. dined at Windsor 42 Days which makes a deduction of	267	3	0
Total Expenditure of the last twelve Months	£2055	7	1½

MEMORANDUM.

[? 1781.]

Noble is to receive by Virtue of a Privy Seal for the Establishment of Prince William and Prince Edward £278. 15. 0 for One Quarter ending the 10th of October. The Salaries of Their Royal Highnesses Officers and Servants, exclusive of Writing Master and Dancing Master, amount to £267. 6. 2¼ per Quarter, so that there is an Overplus of £11. 8. 9¾ per Quarter which does not seem sufficient for Writing Master & Dancing Master, and as is apprehended arises from some Mistake.

N.B. The Tradesmen's Bills for this Quarter it is imagined will be paid by Virtue of a Sign Manual, and amount to £46. 14. 9.

No. 3269—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 362.

The Account of the Second Reading of M^r^ Burke's Bill having been negatived by So great a Majority has as Lord North can easily imagine given Me much pleasure.

QUEENS HOUSE
*Feb^y^* 27^th^ 1781.
$\frac{m}{44}$ p^t^ 8. A.M.

No. 3270.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Feb. 17^th^ 1781.

at L^d^ George Germain feb. 17. 1781.

Present the whole Cabinet.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty as the Opinion of this Meeting that it is expedient to take Post immediately upon the Island of Schetland [*sic*] and that a Body of three hundred Men with an Engineer be ordered as soon as possible from Scotland upon that Service and also that Directions be given to General Mackay empowering him to send such artillery with the three hundred Men as He shall judge necessary.

Agreed that it be also submitted to His Majesty that it is expedient to have a Naval Force in those Seas for annoying the Enemys Trade & Fisheries and defending our own. To be sent thither as early as possible.

No. 3271—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The Dr^t^ of a Response verbale to be made to Monsieur Simolin in the same Manner in which he made His verbal Communication is now submitted to Your Majesty. It was read to the Meeting of Yesterday and approved. If it meets with Your

Majesty's approbation I propose to see M. Simolin tomorrow Morning and to dispatch a Messenger to Sr James Harris by the way of Vienna on Tuesday Night.

St James's *febv* 23. 1781.
$\frac{50}{m}$ *p. one* P.M.

No. 3272—*Lord Longford to the King.*

26 *February*, 1781.

Lord Longford's humble request to Your Majesty is, that Lady Longford his Mother may be created Countess of Longford whenever a Promotion takes place in the Irish Peerage, with Limitation to his Brother in case of failure of Issue Male by himself.

Lady Longford is the immediate Descendant and Representative of the last Earl of Longford who died in 1706, & whose Estate she now possesses.

No. 3273—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 363.

Lord North—On returning last night from the Oratorio I received Your Box; I think it perfectly right that Mr. Deane should so far be trusted as to have three thousand pound in goods for America; the giving him particular instructions would be liable to much hazard but his bringing any of the provinces to offer to return to their Allegiance on the former foot would be much better than by joint Application through the Congress; for if by the breaking off of some the rest are obliged to yield, no further concert or perhaps amity can subsist between them, which would not be the case in the other mode, and the first might only be smothered to break out again on the first occasion.

Queens House.
March 3rd, 1781
$\frac{m}{54}$ *pst* 8 A.M.

No. 3274.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy.

At Lord North's. March 3d, 1781.

Present :—

The Whole Cabinet except Lord Privy Seal who is out of Town.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that one Hundred Regulars be sent as soon as possible to the Ports of the coast of Africa and that as many men as can conveniently be taken from the Justiciary and other similar places be added to the above-mentioned Regulars for the above service and that a ship be immediately prepared to carry this Force to the coast of Africa.

No. 3275—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the vote for the Loan has been carried in the Committee of Ways and Means, but not without a Vote & a Debate. The Motion was to leave out the Lottery from the motion, the Ayes were for retaining the word.

Ayes 169
Noes 111.

March 7 [1781]. ½ *Pst* 8 P.M.

No. 3276—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 364.

The idea of opposing the Lottery Yesterday Seems rather Extraordinary, unless Mankind could entirely be prevented from Gaming. I am certain it is right for the Public to avail itself of that Vice rather than lay Taxes on the Necessaries of Life; I see Lord North has postponed for a day or two the Taxes.

QUEENS HOUSE.
March 8th, 1781.
$\frac{m}{2}$ *pt.* 9 A.M.

No. 3277—*The King to Lord North.*

I am glad to find by Lord North's note that the House of Commons has so early this evening approved of the Resolutions of the Committee of Yesterday.

QUEENS HOUSE.
March 8th, 1781.
$\frac{m}{48}$ *pst* 7 P.M.

No. 3278—*The King to Lord North.*

I am certain the Queen will not object to Mr. Davenport's being recommended to Her for the Office of Her Solicitor General; but as I believe it must be accompanied with his being one of my Council, before I can name the Affair to the Queen it will be proper for Lord North to mention the idea to the Chancellor for His concurrence which will certainly be had as Mr. Davenport is a very creditable person in his profession.

QUEENS HOUSE.
March 8th, 1781.
$\frac{m}{47}$ *pt.* 10 P.M.

No. 3279—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The Drt. which is now submitted to Your Majesty has been read to the Cabinet and approved there. If it meets with Your Majesty's approbation I propose communicating it to Monsr. Simolin tomorrow morning. By a Note I have just received from Him I find that He has some other orders to execute which he received today, and I should wish this communication to precede the execution of those orders, whatever they may be.

ST. JAMES'S. *March* 10. 1781.
Eleven o'clock P.M.

No. 3280—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Lord Sandwich has the great satisfaction to congratulate Your Majesty on the capture of St. Eustatia with a Dutch man of War of 60 guns and a frigate of 32, besides near 200 sail of Merchant ships, and immense booty of all kinds, especially in Naval stores and provisions. The dispatches shall be sent to Your Majesty the moment they are arranged. The homeward bound Dutch convoy is also taken.

ADMIRALTY.
March 13th, 1781.

This note was sent and returned from the Queens House. Lord Sandwich begs Your Majesty to send back the letters as soon as possible in order for their being copied for the Gazette.

No. 3281—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES. *Tuesday March* 13, 1781.
Midnight.

I am sorry to trouble Your Majesty with a very disagreeable letter from Sr. Robert Keith. As I could not venture to answer it without having received Your Majesty's commands I have detained the Messenger, but will endeavour to dispatch him on Friday. The moment I have received Your Majesty's pleasure I will prepare the Drt. of a Dispatch and lay it before the rest of Your confidential Servants. Prince Kaunitz' Idea of treating for America at a Congress seems to me inconsistent with every Principle upon which a fair and impartial Mediation can proceed.

Enclosure.

Passage referred to by Prince Kaunitz as mentioned in Sir R. M. Keith's Dispatch.

" Cette Ligue est une Invasion des États de Sa Majesté, dès qu'elle aura cessé, dès qu'on aura levé cet Obstacle, Le Roi sera non seulement disposé mais empressé à faire la Paix à des Conditions honorables."

No. 3282—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *March* 13, 1781.
Midnight.

The Drt. now submitted to Your Majesty has been read to the Cabinet and entirely approved. If it meets with Your Majesty's approbation it will be sent off tomorrow evening together with another Letter or two the Drts. of which I shall prepare as fast as possible. I have endeavoured to do justice to Your Majesty's sentiments upon this important subject, and have had the advantage of writing from the clearest conviction of my mind and the warmest and strongest Feelings of my Heart.

No. 3283—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North being prevented from paying his duty to His Majesty this morning has the honour of sending several warrants which require His Royal Signature, if approved by his Majesty. He has taken the liberty to add a letter of intelligence from Mr Edwards to Mr Wentworth, and two letters, one from Lord Amherst to Lord North and another from Lord Falkland to Lord Amherst upon the subject of an intended application from Lord Falkland for a pension for the support of his five Grandaughters who have been left in extreme indigence by their father Lt. Col. Cary. Lord Falkland's own income being too straight to enable him to maintain himself, with the sons and daughters of Lt. Col. Cary, he has solicited through Lord Sandwich and Lord Amherst some assistance from his Majesty's bounty. His wish is to have £100 p. ann. to each of the young ladies granted to himself & Dean Law in trust for them.

Thursday. Mar. 21. 1781.

The Warrants for the new Baronets having been signed Lord North intreats his Majesty's pleasure whether he will approve of their kissing his Majesty's hands tomorrow.

No. 3284—*The King to Lord North.*

Lord North is desired to give notice to the Lord Chancellor and to the Speaker that I shall be at the House of Lords at three o'Clock tomorrow to give my assent to the Loan Bill and Such other Public and Private ones as have passed Parliament. I am glad to find the Contractors and Revenue Officers Bills have been thrown out this Day.

QUEENS HOUSE
March 21st 1781
$\frac{m}{34}$ p^t 8 P.M.

No. 3285—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *March* 22^{d} 1781.
$\frac{m}{35}$ p^t 6 P.M.

Having signed the Warrants Lord North transmitted to Me, I return them, as also permission for having a Warrant prepared for one hundred pounds for each of the five Daughters of the late Lieut. Col. Cary and the two Trustees to be named agreeable to the Note drawn up by Lord Falkland, which is the more proper as the money ought not to be at the disposal of the Mother of these Young people.

No. 3286—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE *March* 22^{d} 1781
$\frac{m}{7}$ p^t 11 P.M.

I am glad to find M^{r} Minchin's Motion has been rejected by so great a Majority but I should not have wrote this night had I not recollected that I had not answered Lord North's question concerning the propriety of the Gentlemen being presented tomorrow who have been nominated Baronets, as the Warrants were signed Yesterday by Me, they cannot too soon make their Appearance.

No. 3287.

Minute of Cabinet.

Copy.

at Lord Presidents.
March 24th 1781.

Present the whole Cabinet.

Agreed that all the Dutch settled Inhabitants of the Island of St Eustatia ought to be secured in the possession of their Lands and Produce thereof, Houses, slaves, cattle, utensils and Stock that shall be found thereon.

This to apply equally to St Martin's and Saba agreed that the ammunition belonging to the Islands, and the Provisions taken at St Eustatia and the other Dutch Islands should be reserved by the crown for the Use of the Public.

No. 3288—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

In the absence of Lord Hillsborough I presume to trouble Your Majesty in consequence of an application that has this moment been made to me in favour of William Meek Myers who was tried at York for Murder and convicted. Mr Justice Wills who tried him respited Him till Monday next. It is presumed that this was done with an Intention of making some Report upon the Case. But no such Report is come to either office. The favour sollicited by the father of the Criminal who is a Gentleman of Property and by Mr Tuffnell who came with Him is that Your Majesty would be graciously pleased to prolong the Respite for ten days that is till the 6th of April, to leave Time for an Inquiry to be made if there are any circumstances that plead in alleviation of the Crime. The Jury as it is stated to me were out an hour & a half and wished to bring it in Manslaughter.

St. James's $\frac{30}{m}$ *p. Two* p.m. *March* 24 1781.

No. 3289—*Lord North to the King.*

When Lord North had the honour of paying his duty to his Majesty at S^{t} James's he forgot to mention to him a request of D^{r} Lynch, son to the Dean of Canterbury of that name, & of D^{r} Palmer one of the Prebends of that Cathedral. It is much desired by the present Dean, approved by the ArchBishop, & has been solicited with zeal by Lord Guilford & the Bishop of Worcester: on these accounts Lord North presumes to trouble his Majesty with it. D^{r} Lynch is in possession of a very good living in the gift of the ArchBishop of Canterbury, which his Grace will give to D^{r} Palmer's son, if D^{r} Lynch will resign it, & D^{r} Lynch is willing to resign it if he can obtain a stall in the Cathedral, which upon this arrangement D^{r} Palmer is ready to vacate. What is humbly requested of his Majesty is That he would appoint D^{r} Lynch Prebend of Canterbury in the room of D^{r} Palmer: It is true, that the former is a younger man than the latter but the latter is remarkably healthy, & has all his life observed the strictest regimen, so that in the natural course no vacancy can for a long time be expected by his death. Both the parties concern'd are much loved & esteemed, so that an arrangement to their mutual satisfaction will be agreable to many persons in that part of the world.

Lord North begs pardon for having detained His Majesty so long upon this subject but he thought that he had better be tedious than leave any part of it unexplain'd.

The Duke of Atholl call'd yesterday morning on Lord North, to renew his application to have his Life put into his Mother's pension. His Majesty will remember that the application was first made at the time of the sudden & melancholy death of the late Duke: The present Duke, in addition to that claim states the family as having been great losers by the sale of the Isle of Man.

Lord North will not trouble his Majesty with many words on his own situation, but hopes his Majesty will not be offended, if he submits to his Majesty, that the decline which he feels in his health, his spirits, & his understanding makes him every day more earnest to retire from the hurry of business & the bustle of the world. His Majesty's interest, as well as Lord North's feelings,

made it necessary for Lord North to say this much ; His duty as well as his anxiety drew this from him, & he leaves the whole to his Majesty's kind & humane consideration.

Sir John Burgoyne, having been induced to decline the honour of raising one of the new regiments, partly from the situation of his own affairs immediately upon the death of his father, partly from the rank he is arrived at in the Dragoon service, & partly from the great difficulties he will meet with in attempting at this time to raise a regiment in Ireland, is under some uneasiness least he should appear not sufficiently sensible of his Majesty's gracious favour in having directed the proposal to be made to him : He has, with the strongest expressions of gratitude & duty, assured Lord North that he did not desire to be excused, till he had been informed by Lord Amherst That his conduct would not be consider'd by his Majesty as the least want of gratitude or respect for his Majesty's very gracious offer, or of zeal for the promotion of his Majesty's service ; If he thought that his conduct on this occasion could appear in that light, or could be liable to his Majestys disapprobation, no objections whatever, & no consideration in the world would have persuaded him to decline the undertaking.

Bushy Park. *Sunday Even^g Mar:* 15. 1781.

No. 3290—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 364.

Queen's House
March 26th 1781 $\frac{m}{35}$ p^t 3 P.M.

Lord North's letter from Bushy dated last night did not arrive till I was going this day to S^t^ James's ; as Lord Guildford and the bishop of Worcester interest themselves in D^r^ Palmer's resigning a Prebendary of Canterbury in favour of D^r^ Lynch I authorise the step to be taken.

The Atholl family seem never contented but I leave the affair to Lord North to settle as He may think most equitable.

I am not surprised Lord North feels disgusted at the fatigue He undergoes He may be certain I feel my task as unpleasant as

he can possibly find His but both of us are in tramels and it is our duty to continue.

Sir John Burgoyne proposed to raise a Regiment he now wishes to decline the undertaking. I certainly never can blame him as the offer arose from Himself.

No. 3291—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 365.

The Conduct of Sir Geo. Saville in making so strange a motion Yesterday was very consistent with His looking [upon] Himself as the Representative for Mr Wyvile's Congress I am glad it met with the rejection it deserved.

Windsor Castle
March 27th 1781
$\frac{m}{46}$ p^t 7 A.M.

No. 3292—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 366.

Queens House *March* 28th 1781.
$\frac{m}{5}$ p^t 8. P.M.

Lord North—As I shall certainly wish to give the Assent in person to the Tea Bills, I desire You will send this evening to the Chancellor that if they can be through the House of Lords and returned to the Commons by three o'Clock tomorrow, I will come at that time to give my Assent, I hope to have a line in answer this night when You have heard from the Chancellor that the proper notice may be given for that purpose early tomorrow morning.

I saw Mr Jenkinson who gave many very solid reasons against the forming the Six Regiments, I wish Lord North would see him, as also Lord Amherst and Lord Hillsborough, there seems to be some want of consideration in the whole that perhaps by this may be cleared up ; Mr Jenkinson thinks he has been treated also unkindly in not being permitted to state his objections to

the Cabinet this He had desired Lord Amherst would state, but He supposes he never did, the Adjutant Gen. says Lord Amherst does not approve of raising these Regiments and Lord Hills [borough] is said to be of the same opinion.

No. 3293—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

Lord Hillsborough will have the honour to obey Your Majesty's Orders immediately. M^{r} Jenkinson has always been against the Irish Augmentation by Regiments, and long ago the Cabinet in consequence of his Objections and those urged by Lord Hillsborough, resolved it should be made by Companies; Lord Hillsborough was not present when that advice was resolved upon which your Majesty was pleased to signifie to him your commands for acquainting the Lord Lieutenant of, & which he accordingly did. That there is a degree of Job in the mode of raising by Regiments, is not to be doubted, as every Colonel is understood to put three thousand Pounds into his Pocket; But Lord Hillsborough humbly assures Your Majesty that He has not observed any reason to suppose that the adopting the Opinion of raising Regiments has been the effect of any private View.

Hanover Square
March 29th 1781
$\frac{m}{55}$ *past* 9. A.M.

No. 3294—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

St. James's 29th *March* 1781
$\frac{m}{43}$ *past* 5 P.M.

Lord Hillsborough came to S^{t} James's a few minutes after Your Majesty left it & followed to the Queen's House, but being informed that Your Majesty was going to dinner, did not presume to ask for an Audience. He thinks it is his Duty to acquaint Your Majesty that he has seen M^{r} Jenkinson, whose reasons against the measure of raising the new Regiments in Ireland appear to him to be very strong and well founded. He persists in his resolution which he had the honour to communicate to Your Majesty Lord H. also has seen Lord North, who says that

he has not taken any part in or formed any opinion concerning the best mode of raising Men, but a very clear and decided one that Men should be raised as soon as possible. Upon the whole I ventured to propose that it should be stated to the Cabinet that Mr Jenkinson having very solid arguments to urge against the new Regiments, and Difficulties concerning the proposing them in Parliament, it would be proper for the Cabinet to hear him upon that Subject Mr Jenkinson has no objection, provided it be intended to suspend the Measure for the present, Lord North does not object to either. If your Majesty does approve of this, a Cabinet should be called, & probably the consequence would be a suspension of the Measure. But Lord H knows not how to assure Mr Jenkinson of that Consequence, unless he were previously to consult some others of the Cabinet. Lord Hillsborough is desirous to be honoured with Your Majestys Commands for his conduct. He humbly thinks Mr Jenkinson's Resignation at present, and upon a Subject liable to many objections and altercations in both Countries would be a very disagreeable Circumstance. A letter which Lord Hillsborough sends to Your Majesty, just received from Ireland will shew that the Matter is still open, and will also suggest some Consideration to Your Majesty. Lord Hillsborough will be very happy, if what he proposes shall meet with Your Majesty's Approbation, there seems to be no difficulty attending it, except what may arise from other Lords Opinions in the Cabinet.

No. 3295—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain by the advice of Lord Sandwich humbly proposes to Your Majesty to sign the enclosed Instructions, as it may be some days before any account can be received from the Ranger which carried the original dispatches to Jersey on her way to the Leeward Islands.

Captain McAllister may be immediately sent with the present instructions from Plymouth, and Duplicates will be sent to Jersey to be delivered to the officer Commanding the Ranger should he still remain there.

Whitehall *March* 30th 1781 $\frac{m}{45}$ p^t 3. A.M.

No. 3296—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEENS HOUSE *March* 30th
1781 $\frac{m}{16}$ p^t 8 A.M.

In consequence of the two Notes that came last Night from Lord North, I have ordered the Equipages to be ready at three this day for my going to pass the Bills, Lord North will give notice of this to the Chancellor and to the Speaker.

No. 3297.

Copy.

MINUTE OF CABINET.
at Lord Dartmouths, March 31. 1781.

Present

The Whole Cabinet

Agreed that it is advisable that the raising Six Regiments in Ireland be postponed.

Agreed that a Ship of the Line should sail immediately to join Commodore Johnston at the Cape, and in case he is not there, to proceed immediately to the East Indies.

No. 3298—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Petition of the Gentlemen (who have met lately at S^t Albans tavern & called themselves Delegates from several Counties in Great Britain) was presented today to the House of Commons & ordered to lie on the table, but nothing moved upon it. The Petitioners did not assume the character of Delegates in their Petition, but intitled it. The Petition of the several persons thereunto subscribed being Freeholders of several Counties.

Monday April 2^d 1781.

No. 3299—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

Being obliged to go to the Cockpit and from there to a Meeting at the Cabinet it will be impossible for me to get the Dr^ts^ to S^r^ R. Keith ready for Your Majestys Perusal, but as they will be little more than Letters of mere Compliment and touch upon no new points I propose sending them by this Post if I have Y^r^ Majestys permission to do so.

M. Bourboulon Tresorier General to M. Dartois who has avowed the answer to M. Necker is sent to the Bastile & Every Endeavour is used by the Police to suppress the answer. M. Maurepas highly disapproves this Measure & is at open variance with M. Necker.

S^T^ James's *Eleven o'clock* A.M. *April* 3^d^ 1781.

No. 3300.

Copy.

Minute of Cabinet.

at Lord Amherst April 3. 1781.

Present.

The whole Cabinet except the Chancellor.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty as the opinion of this Meeting that a Regiment be immediately sent from Jersey & Guernsey to the East Indies and a Regiment sent from hence to replace them.

That Directions be sent to the Admiralty to prepare Transports for the Conveyance of the Regiment from hence to Jersey & Guernsey The Number of Men to be transported is one thousand.

That four Independent Companies be sent to Guernsey.

That Notice be given to the East India Company of His Majesty's Gracious Intentions, that they may be prepared accordingly, in Conformity to their proposal in their Letter to Lord Hillsborough.

No. 3301—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty, That Mr Wilkes's annual motion for expunging the resolution upon the Middlesex Election has been negatived today by a great Majority.

Ayes 61
Noes 116

April 5. 1781. ½ *p*t 4 P.M.

No. 3302—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

Altho I received Your Majesty's General Commands upon the subject of the Letter to General Fawcett, yet as the business is of Importance I wished to submit it to Your Majesty before I dispatched the Messenger He will be in full Time to reach the Packet.

The Business in the House which ended better than was expected by Lord President's withdrawing His Motion, made it impossible for me to prepare the Drt time enough to be laid before Your Majesty this Evening.

St James's *April* 6. 1781.
Midnight.

No. 3303—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of returning to his Majesty the two papers which he received from his Majesty this morning, & the sketch of a message to be carried to Mr Colleton by Lord Brudenell, which he has endeavour'd to draw up according to the instructions he received from his Majesty.

His Majesty will perceive that Lord North has consulted precision rather than elegance of stile, & has chosen to repeat the same words frequently rather than leave any ambiguity in the expressions.

Lord North wrote this sketch of an answer to Mr Colleton under the supposition that Lord Brudenell would deliver it

verbally, & if Mr Colleton should desire a copy of it, give him one in his own hand-writing.

The House of Commons today consented to the motion for leave to bring in a bill for putting the Servants tax under the Commissioners of Excise, & to the motion for a small additional tax upon Almanacks to be charged with annuities of £500 per annum for the two Universities.

Friday Evening. April 7 [1781].

$\frac{m}{42}$ p^t. 10. P.M.

No. 3304—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North begs his Majesty's pardon for not having returned the first sketch of the message to Mr Colleton: It was at the bottom of the box & Lord North did not see it but made the alteration from a foul copy which he had by him compared with the note he had the honour of receiving from his Majesty.

By other letters & intelligence received by other Lords of Cabinet, & read at Lord Sandwich's this afternoon there is great reason to believe, that the intelligence Lord North had the honour of sending his Majesty is well founded as far as it relates to the French Fleet.

As his Majesty may possibly hear of an event which happen'd today at the Cabinet dinner in a manner that will give his Majesty more uneasiness than ought to be caused from the Story exactly told, Lord North will detain his Majesty for a few moments to state it truly to His Majesty.

Lord Sandwich's room being extremely hot, Lord Stormont, who sat with his back to the fire, found himself out of order with the heat, & rose from table in order to go into another room, but he was no sooner risen than he fell down apparently in a fit, though without any apoplectic or epileptic signs. The room being cool'd & Lord Stormont seated opposite to an open window, he soon same to himself again, & it appear'd that he had only fainted away, partly through the heat of the room, & partly through too much fatigue, having taken more exercise than usual on horseback in the morning. Dr Turton, & the Surgeon who attended, were both of opinion, that he had fainted away

from these causes, & that it was a matter of no consequence. He afterwards came down, drank tea, & sat with us about an hour, to all appearance perfectly recover'd.

As this Story might be ill told, & magnified, Lord North thought it right to relate it correctly to his Majesty.

Saturday Even^g^ April 7. 1781.

No. 3305—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour to return his Majesty the first paragraph of the Message to Mr. Colleton amended in that part which his Majesty thought ambiguous, & liable to a construction which would seem to justify the notion conceived by Captain Luttrell. Lord North has endeavour'd to word this amendment so as to give no ground for the claim of interest.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing two important letters from Dr. Bancroft to Mr. Wentworth, They come, however, rather too late.

Saturday. April 7. 1781. 5 *o'clock* P.M.

Enclosure No. 1.

The King has commanded Lord Brudenell to acquaint Mr. Colleton That the sum of £6500, in the hands of Mr. Le Grand at his decease, had arisen from several sums of money, which he had retain'd from time to time by his Majesty's command, & which, by the addition of other sums order'd to be retain'd in the like manner at stated periods, were to have amounted to £12,000 & to be disposed of according to directions from his Majesty.

Enclosure No. 2.

Sketch of an Answer to Mr. Colleton.

[In Lord North's handwriting.]

The King has commanded Lord Brudenell to acquaint Mr. Colleton That the sum of £6500 in Mr. Le Grand's hands at his decease, had arisen from several sums of money which had been

retain'd from time to time by his Majesty's order, & were a part of a larger sum, which was to have been *accumulated*, & to remain in Mr. Le Grand's hands to await his Majesty's disposal.

His Majesty, having, since the death of Mr. Le Grand, order'd the said sum of £6500 to be given to his Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, is of opinion that, as the said sum of £6500 did not belong to his Royal Highness previous to the said order of his Majesty, Mr. Colleton ought not to be charged with the payment of any interest for the same.

Enclosure No. 3.

Draft Order of the King.

Whereas Under my Sign Manual I some Years ago gave Orders and Directions to the late Edwd. Le Grand, Esq. to advance to my Brother Henry Duke of Cumberland the sum of twelve Thousand Pounds upon & by way of Loan to be repaid into the Hands of Mr. Le Grand by Installments for my Use ; And I did likewise direct that whenever the whole sum of £12.000 sh^{d} have been so repaid that the s^{d} Edw^{d} Le Grand sh^{d} then pay into the Hands of the Duke of Cumberland the whole Sum of Twelve Thousand Pounds as a Gratuity or free Gift from me to my said Brother. And Whereas I have likewise given Directions to s^{d} Edw^{d} Le Grand concerning the Appropriation and Application of so much of the said Sum as hath been paid in by Installments amounting to the Sum of six Thousand five hundred Pounds, and whereby it appears that there is still due upon the Loan the Sum of five Thousand five hundred Pounds—And Whereas s^{d} Edw^{d} Le Grand is lately deceased, having appointed Frances Colleton the Wife of James Edw^{d} Colleton of Staines Hill in the County of Berks Esq. Whole and Sole Executrix, And the Time is some time since lapsed within which the whole £12.000 might have been paid in by the Installments settled, so that the s^{d} Edw^{d} Le Grand hath not been enabled to carry into Execution my further and final Intent respecting the said twelve Thousand Pounds. Now I do hereby signify to the s^{d} Frances Colleton Executrix above mention'd my Royal Will and Pleasure that the Moneys (which have been paid in to the s^{d} Edw^{d} Le Grand and apply'd by and with my Privity and Direction) be forthwith resumed and called in, And that as soon as the same shall have been receiv'd, I

hereby farther direct and desire that the s^d^ Executrix shall pay or cause to be paid the s^d^ sum of six thousand five hundred Pounds into the Hands of my Royal Brother Henry Duke of Cumberland to and for his sole and Absolute Use, and to whom I shall give or cause to be given a full & absolute Release and Discharge for the s^d^ Sum of five thousand five hundred Pounds, the remaining Part of the original Sum of Twelve Thousand Pounds in Pursuance and Completion of my original and first Intent respecting the same. And I desire that all Papers and other Muniments respecting the s^d^ £12.000 the Loan, Payments or Application found in the Possession of s^d^ Edw^d^ Le Grand may, if with Propriety they may, be wholly cancelled and destroyed

G. R.

Copy (lines dash'd under omitted in the paper sign'd)

Enclosure No. 4.

In Pursuance of the within mentioned Royal Order and Direction the Sum of six thousand five hundred Pounds (having been called in by the Executrix of Edw^d^ Le Grand Esqr. has been this second Day of April 1781 paid to me, & I do hereby acknowledge to have received accordingly from Frances Colleton Executrix of Edw^d^ Le Grand the within mention'd sum of six thousand five hundred Pounds by the Hands of James Edw^d^ Colleton Esq. H.

Copy.

Enclosure No. 5.

The Duke of Cumberland to Mr. and Mrs. Colleton.

Message from His Royal Highness The Duke of Cumberland to Mr. & Mrs. Colleton by Sr. John Delaval, April ye 4th 1781.

I am come Sr. to wait on You by order of His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland to hear what Day you will appoint to pay the Interest on the £6500 which was given by His Majesty to the Duke of Cumberland which Interest amounts to the sum of £2100.

Enclosure No. 6.

The Duke of Cumberland to Mr. and Mrs. Colleton.

Second Message from His Royal Highness the Duke of Cumberland, by Sr. John Delaval to Mr. & Mrs. Colleton. April 6. 1781

The Duke of Cumberland Expects & Requires that the Interest due from the late Mr. Le Grand his Treasurer to him for money paid by him from time to time into his hands to be accumulated for his use, should be accounted for by the Executrix of Mr. Le Grand, from whom he considers it as due.

No. 3306—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 367.

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *April 7th.* 1781

$\frac{m}{30}$ *pt.* 3 P.M.

I desired Ld. Bateman to speak to Ld. North concerning the Manor of Wingfield as undoubtedly it would prevent many abuses in the Forrest of Windsor which cirrounds [*sic*] it, and which otherwise cannot be attained but by the decisions of Law which are ever tedious and not always expedient: I desire therefore Ld. North will if possible get Mr. Walsh to give up that pursuit.

The D. of Cumberland certainly has not the smallest claim to interest for the Sum Mrs. Colleton has by my direction paid unto Him; The Duke was to have paid five hundred per quarter till the whole sum of £12.000 was refunded to me, therefore this was not to arise from Accumulation of interest. I should hope the Message I shall tomorrow put into Ld. Brudenell's hands will entirely stop any further conversations. I certainly approve of Ld. North's draft but should wish one word altered it occurred to me on first reading it this Morning but still more forcibly on reading Ld. North's account of Mr. Jo^{n} Luttrell's conversation that He should keep the Money till it amounted to £12.000, I wish therefore to omit the word *Accumulated* and put some other that can not carry with it the idea of any measure by interest which was never intended.

No. 3307—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing two notes respecting the Manor of Wingfield which as Lord Bateman has informed Lord North his Majesty has a desire to purchase. By the letter sign'd J. Ranworth His Majesty will perceive that the bargain is nearly made with another purchaser who, as Lord North has been told, is Mr. Walsh: Lord North thinks it probable that Mr. Walsh will give way to his Majesty when he hears of his Majesty's wish. If his Majesty has any commands on this subject, Lord North will not fail to execute them upon receiving his Majesty's pleasure.

Captain James Luttrell has been this morning to talk with Lord North upon the Duke of Cumberland's demand of interest upon the Executrix of Mr. le Grand: He was not authorized by his Royal Highness to permit Lord North to mention his conversation to his Majesty, but, as Lord North thinks it would be convenient that his Majesty should know his Royal Highness' sentiments as soon as possible, He will endeavour to state them as correctly as he can from Captain Luttrell's report. The Duke grounds his claim upon the words of his Majesty's order to Mr. Le Grand, which directed him to keep the money (as it should arise) till it amounted to £12.000 *for the sole use and benefit of his Royal Highness*: Capt. Luttrell added that Mr. Le Grand actually had put the money out to interest, & drawn a considerable profit from it, & that the Duke conceived it to be the intention of his Majesty that such profit should not belong to Mr. Le Grand's executrix, but to himself, & that, Mr. Le Grand having died very rich, there seem'd no reason why the Duke should sacrifice any right of his to the Heirs of Mr. Le Grand.

Upon the whole, Lord North believes, that the Duke is now sensible that he has no legal claim to the interest of the money, except such as may arise from his Majesty's intention, when he gave the order, & that he will probably be guided by his Majesty's opinion, according to which he will either prosecute or relinquish his demand; Lord North gave it as his opinion that the money in Mr. Le Grand's hands belong'd to his Majesty, and not to the Duke of Cumberland, which opinion Mr. Luttrell did not dispute, but said, that his Royal Highness brought his claim

on behalf of his Majesty, & in pursuance of what he conceived to be to have been his Majesty's intention, & that he did not found it on any original claim & right of his own.

Lord North imagines that his Majesty's declaration will put an end to the business.

Downing St. *April* 8. 1781.

No. 3308—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty That a Comm^{tee} is appointed on Wednesday the 25th of this month to consider the state of the E.I. Company. There was some talk upon the subject but no division. The House has likewise today voted £1000 pr. ann. for the two Universities. The House must sit till Thursday in order to vote the produce of the last quarter of the Sinking Fund amounting to about 750,000 & some other moneys in the Exchequer after which it will adjourn to Tuesday the 24th.

Downing Street. *Monday Even^{g} April* 9. $\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* 8 P.M.

No. 3309—*Lieut.-Gen. Gage to* [*Lord Amherst*].

Portland Place *April* 13th 1781.

My Lord—I have received your Letter of this Date, and am to return your Lordship my very Sincere Thanks, for the honour you do me, in giving me a place in your Memory on this Occasion, of filling up a Vacancy on the Staff. It would give me great pleasure to have an opportunity to serve again under your Lordship, and I shall consider the Appointment, as a distinguished Mark of His Majesty's Royal Favour.

I have, etc. Tho^{s} Gage.

No. 3310—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North begs pardon for troubling his Majesty with the enclosed commission for the appointment of M^{r} Craigie in the

room of Mr Drummond, who has resigned the office of a Deputy Commissary at Quebec. The ships are under order for sailing, which is the reason of Lord North's being so troublesome.

Lord North begs leave to add two letters he has this moment received from Ireland.

Saturday April 14 1781.

No. 3311—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

Lord Hillsborough has the honour to send to Your Majesty all the Papers delivered to him by Captain Dempster who arrived from Ireland Yesterday. The Captain relates the Engagement between Colonels Baillie & Fletcher, and Hyder Ally, to have been as stated in the Gazettes from the Isle de Bourbon, and that Sir Hector Monroe upon hearing of the Defeat retreated precipitately to Madrass. Sir Edward Hughes was at Bombay when the Captain sailed from Madras. No accounts are yet come to Lord Hillsborough's Office from the Secretary at War, or the India House.

St James's

17th *April* 1781 $\frac{m}{40}$ *past* 1 P.M.

No. 3312.

Copy. Minute of Cabinet.

at Lord Hillsborough's office April 23. 1781.

Present the whole Cabinet

The chairman & Deputy chairman of The East India Company attended.

Agreed that it should be submitted to His Majesty as the opinion of this Meeting, after the Conference with the Chairman & Deputy chairman, that two hundred Recruits be given in addition to Lord Seafords Regiment which Recruits The East India Company engage to replace at their Expence.

Agreed also that it is advisable that they should be assisted

with Four Ships of the Line, Part to go out with the Convoy in May and the Remainder with the Convoy in October.

The chairman and Deputy chairman have agreed for the East India Company to treat with M^{r} Erskine for one thousand Swiss in addition to the two thousand Germans that General Faucit is to endeavour to procure pursuant to a former order.

It is agreed to be submitted to His Majesty that it would be expedient to give a Regiment of one thousand Men for the Service of the East India Company to be paid by Them. No further British Force can be spared, and it is for this Reason that the chairman and Deputy chairman have agreed to the Taking Foreign Troops.

No. 3313—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 368.

WINDSOR *April* 30th 1781.

It is not probable that the good Bishop of Winchester will live many hours, Lord North will therefore as soon as He hears of his death acquaint the Bishop of Worcester of my appointing him to the See of Winchester and the Bishop of Litchfield to that of Worcester; Lord Hertford has already my directions to notify the Bishop of Litchfield as Clerk of the Closet the moment He shall find that the present Possessor is no more; as to the various translations that this may occasion I desire L^{d} North will consult the Archbishop of Canterbury; I owne I think D^{r} Horne ought to be the New Bishop, D^{r} Graham ought to wait for either Bristol, Landaff, or Carlisle; if He can be told that He will have the first of those three that becomes vacant; He cannot fail of resting contented.

No. 3314—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of enclosing to his Majesty a letter of intelligence from Paris. When he had last the honour of paying his duty at S^{t} James's He forgot to mention to his Majesty Capt: Pierson the father of Major Pierson who was killed in Jersey &

for whom Lord Aylesbury interests himself with great zeal. Lord North supposes that an am^{t} of £250 which will afford Capt: Pierson near £200 clear will be sufficient, Lord North has sent some Warrants for which he intreats his Majesty's signature.

Downing Street
April 20. 1781.

No. 3315—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 369.

Windsor *April* 30th 1781
$\frac{m}{22}$ p^{t} 8. P.M.

The Intelligence from Paris though it makes the Supply France gives to the Congress more considerable than was first proposed, yet I do not think it sufficient to reinstate the paper, and if that is not effected it is impossible the Rebellion can long Subsist; I authorized L^{d} North to have a Warrant prepared for M^{r} Pierson agreable to the proposition viz. 250 £ which will make him receive about 200 £.

No. 3316—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's. *Monday Night.*
April 30. 1781.

The Gentleman I sent to Holland is returned and seems to have executed His Commission with great address. Your Majesty will see by the enclosed Return that the account he brings is a very comfortable one, it fully justifies all Sr. Joseph Yorke said of the Weakness of the Republic. My Informer is convinced that this fleet such as it is will not be able to put to sea in less than a Month. I have desired Him to wait upon Ld. Sandwich tomorrow. He thinks that an attack upon Zealand would certainly succeed. He will Throw his Ideas upon Paper. He says that the general Dejection & Despondence is beyond all Description.

No. 3317—*The King to Lord North.*

WINDSOR *May 2nd.* 1781.
$\frac{m}{20}$ *pt.* 7. A.M.

I am glad to find by Lord North's letter that the East India businiss has been now set on its legs I hope from the Ability of those put into the Committee that there will be dilligence an dispatch for the sooner the session can be brought to a termination the better.

I have just received the authentick Account of the Death of the good Bishop of Winchester Lord North will therefore without loss of time send to the Bishops of Worcester and Litchfield, the further arrangements must be concerted with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

No. 3318—*Admiral Rodney to Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot.*

Copy.

SANDWICH AT ST. EUSTATIUS,
3 *May* 1781.

SIR—A very considerable French Squadron, having arrived at Martinique from Europe, on the 29th of last Month; I think it my Duty, to give you Information thereof; that you may be upon your guard, should they visit the Coast of America; in which Case, I shall send ev'ry Assistance in my power.

I have, etc. G. B. RODNEY.

No. 3319—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

The Committee of Surrey has authorized me to apply to your Majesty that the Letters I have received from India may be laid before them. I presume that your Majesty will have no objection to it. The Busyness of the Committee goes on very well & I am perswaded they will bring it to a prosperous Conclusion.

I trouble your Majesty with a very good Report from the General Officers, who sat on the Complaints of Govr Morris & Col Etherington against each other, Gen Gage & Sr Chas Gould are of opinion that no Trial can be had on Col Etherington but in the West Indies; I will state to your Majesty my opinion on this busyness when I pay my Duty to you.

I trouble your Majesty with an application from the Field Officer of the Guards in wishing for further Leave of absense for Lieut Colonel Guydickens.

I hear that the Adjutant General continues to be in a great deal of Danger.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject C. JENKINSON.

May 4th. 1791
6 *o'Clock.*

No. 3320—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 370.

I return the Papers Lord North put a few days ago into my hands; I have enquired into the actual value of the See of Litchfield and find that the Annual landed receipt amounts to £1500. that the renewal of Leases and other advantages have one Year with another amounted to £1500 more, that the Bishop has not overstrained his leases nor hurried on the letting them, that He will therefore leave it in good plight and that He thinks it cannot justly be valued at less than in the whole fairly at £2500 per Annum; I should think therefore the Chancellor when Ld. North States this to Him will willingly accept of it for His Brother, and let him resign the Temple; I doubt whether he would give up the living of Stanhope which is nearly as good as the Addition of income the Bishop will get by the change.

QUEEN'S HOUSE.

May 5th 1781 $\frac{m}{50}$ *pt.* 8. A.M.

No. 3321—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

I forgot to mention to your Majesty yesterday an application that has been made to Lord Mansfield by the Duc de Guines in favour of two french artists sent to Greece to collect Drawings for the finishing of C^{t} choiseuils *voyage Pittoresque de la Grece.* If your Majesty has no objection to the granting the Protection desired it is imagined that the Passport now transmitted for your Majesty's signing will effectually answer the Purpose.

ST. JAMES'S *May* 5. 1781.

No. 3322—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *May 7th*
$\frac{30}{m}$ *p. three* P.M.

The Prospect stated in My Confidential letter which is here submitted to Yr Majesty was mentioned by me yesterday at our meeting and approved there, as an attempt from which no Inconvenience can arise. The Subject of the Secret Letter is a Matter of Nicety & I am anxious to know if I have seized Yr Majestys Ideas upon the Subject. Such a signal Specific Service as is pointed out there might perhaps make a proper exception for a wise General Rule.

No. 3323—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 371.

Lord North—I am much pleased at finding the friends to the present Constitution so numerous on the Division in the House of Commons last Night.

The Corps of the late Bishop of Winchester was carried from Chelsea Yesterday; I therefore think the Bishop of Worcester whom I met on the Road Yesterday and the Bishop of Litchfield should receive notice from You that they may come this day to S^{t} James, when I shall direct the Secretary of State to prepare the Congé d'élire for the Chapter of Winchester.

Queens House
May 9th. 1781.
$\frac{m}{15}$ *pt.* 9 A.M.

No. 3324—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

Sire—I am truly sensible of Your Majestys great and condescending goodness to me, by the honour of Your Majestys Note.

Your Majesty has lost a good officer, I feel too much on the loss to presume to trouble your Majesty on it, but most humbly beg leave to assure Your Majesty of my Acknowledgment and devoted Duty. Amherst.

Near Whitehall
14*th May* 1781.

No. 3325—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty That Mr Burke's motion for papers relative to the property captured at St Eustatius has been rejected by a great majority, after a long debate.

Ayes 86
Naes 160

Monday May 14. 1781. $\frac{m}{40.}$ *pt.* 11. P.M.

Enclosure.

14th May, 1781.

Speakers on Mr. Burke's Motion for Papers relative to the Affairs of St. Eustatius

	against
Mr. Burke—moved for the Papers	Mr. Bamber Gascoyne Junr. . in Answer to Mr. Stanley and agt. the general Question
Mr. Stanley—2nd him—and relative to a Petition thereon presented from Liverpoole	Mr. A. Rawlinson—in answer to Mr. Stanley
Mr St. Andw St. John	Captn. John Lutterell
Mr. Fox	Ld. George Germain
Mr. J. M. Smith	Lord Nugent
Genl. Smith	Ld Advocate
Ld. Surrey	Mr. B. Gascoyne Sent in answer to Mr. Stanley about the Liverpoole Petition.
Mr. Byng	Mr. Courtenay.

The House divided Ayes — 86
Naes — 160

No. 3326—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of recommending to his Majesty the Honourable & Reverend Mr Edward Conway to succeed Dr. Howard in the Living of Rendlesham in Suffolk:

This living is within distance of Sudbourne the other Living of Mr. Conway, & as Lord North believes, not far from Oxford.

Tuesday morn: May: 16 [? 15*th*]. [1781].

No. 3327—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *May* 15*th*. 1781.
3 *quarters past seven* A.M.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the dispatches received from Admiral Drake containing an account of the Dutch fleet being at Sea ; in consequence of which, Lord Sandwich proposes to send Admiral Parker immediately to Portsmouth to collect what ships he can & proceed without a moments loss of time to the Downs. The Ships that it is hoped may be in readiness are the

Victory	Magnanime
P:ss Amelia	Sultan
Buffalo	Leander
Diligente	

Lord Sandwich thinks that with any five of these Ships Admiral Parker may put to Sea in quest of the Dutch Fleet, and he does not think there can be any impropriety in borrowing the Sultan and Magnanime for a short time, as it will be unadviseable to trust the India convoy to Sea till we have heard from Admiral Darby, and know that the channel is clear from enemies.

three more small vessels are ordered to look out for Admiral Darby, and give him an account of La Motte Piquets having fallen in with our St. Eustatia fleet, in hopes of his being enabled thereby to intercept him before his return to Brest.

Tho' Lord Sandwich concludes that your Majesty has been allready informed of this unpleasant affair, Lord Sandwich sends the information received last night from Ireland.

Your Majesty will have the goodness to send back these letters & papers, as they will be wanted in forming the orders that must be dispatched this morning to the different Ports.

No. 3328.

Line of Battle.

The Princessa to lead with the Starboard.
The Bedford with the Larboard. [1781 ?]

Frigates	Rates	Ships	Commanders	Guns	Men	Division
Sybil	3	Princessa	R. Ad. Drake / Capt. Knatchbull	70	677	
Britannia		Alcide	Thompson	74	600	
		Lion	Fooks	64	500	
		Canada	Cornwallis	74	600	
Perseverance to repeat Signals	2	P. George	R. Ad. Digby / Capt. Williams	96	768	R. Ad. Digby
Felicity	3	Resolution	Lt. Rt. Manners	74	600	
Lucifer F.S.		Intrepid	Molloy	64	500	
		Montague	Bowen	74	600	
Pearl	4	Warwick	Capt. Elphinston	50	350	
	3	P. William	Wilkinson	64	500	
Rattle Snake		Centaur	Inglefield	74	650	
Carysfort		Europe	Child	64	500	
Vulcan F.S.		Robust	Cosby	74	600	
Orpheus to repeat Signals	2	London	R. Ad. Graves / Capt. Kempthorn / Morice	98	800	R. Ad. Graves Commander in Chief
Amphion	3	Royal Oak	Burnett	74	600	
Conflagration F.S.		America	Thompson	64	500	
Mentor		Shrewsbury	Knight	74	600	
		Torbay	Gidoin	74	600	
Blonde	4	Adamant	D. Graves	50	350	
Lively	3	Ajax	Capt. Charrington	74	550	
		Prudent	Barkley	64	500	
Salamander F.S.		Monarch	Reynolds	74	600	
Pegasus to repeat Signals	2	Barfleur	R. Ad. Hood / Capt. Hood	96	768	R. Ad. Hood
Ostrich	3	Invincible	Saxton	74	600	
Nymphe		Belliqueux	Brine	64	500	
Sta. Margaritta		Alfred	Bayne	74	600	
		Bedford	Come. Affleck / Capt. Graves	74	617	

No. 3329—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 371.

Queen's House *May* 15*th* 1781.
$\frac{m}{40}$ *pt.* 3 P.M.

I was much pleased at finding by the note that was this morning on my table from Lord North that Mr. Burke's motion for papers relative to the captured Property at St. Eustatius had been rejected by so large a Majority

On returning home I have received his Note recommending Mr. Conway to Succeed Dr. Howard in the Living of Rendlesham in Suffolk which is within distance of that of Sudbourne which he already holds. I authorise his notifying that a Warrant be prepared for that Appointment.

No. 3330—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

I humbly beg leave to know, if it is your Majesty's pleasure I should notify Major General, Lord Ross as Colonel of the 32^{d}, he is Senior to M General Smith and is on the Irish Staff : having received a note from Lord North in favour of Colonel Roberts, and a Letter from Mj General Smith, I think it proper to lay them before your Majesty, with copies of my Answer.

Should it be your Majesty's gracious pleasure to think of, proper Officers, for filling the place of Adjutant General, I most humbly, beg leave, to mention Mr General Faucitt, to your Majesty, as one very deserving of Your Royal Favour

Amherst.

Near Whitehall
16*th May* 1781.
8 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 3331—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 373.

QUEENS HOUSE *May 17th* 1781.

The enclosed is the letter I have received from Lady Gower which I mentioned this morning to Ld. North ; Since He left me I have seen the D. of Atholl, who stated to Me a Bill to explain the agreement made whilst Mr. Greenville presided at the Board of Treasury concerning the Isle of Man and to define the Sovereign and Manorial Rights. He claims the fisheries, pretends they are of the latter kind, wanted Me to decide they were so ; I said I had never heard of this new Bill that he could not expect I should give any opinion whilst unacquainted with the Subject, that the Public had bought the Sovereignity that I had no right to give up whatever should prove to be Such, that I would acquaint Ld. North with what He had Said, and that He the D. of Atholl, will either demand the fisheries or not as may be thought equitable by Ld. North and the Attorney and Solicitor General ; I therefore desire if Ld. North is not decided as to the point that He will with them fix what is right and notify in the course of the Day the part that will be taken by the Servants of the Crown in Parliament to the Duke who says he will act agreeably to such decision ; I should guess by his own state that he has no equitable claim.

No. 3332—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that Lord Narboroughs affairs being so ruined that it is impossible for him to live in England, & highly improbable that he will ever be able to return, it is become necessary to appoint a new auditor of Wales, & Lord North humbly recommends Mr. Johns, Member for Radnorshire, as his succesor. If his Majesty approves this appointment Mr Johns will have the honour of kissing his Majestys hand today, Wednesday or this day fortnight.

The Duke of Atholls business has been now depending two years. He brought in an act of Parliament last year, which was

refer'd to the Attorney & Solicitor General who made as favourable a report for his Grace as possible but he was not satisfied with it, & withdrew the Bill. The present Bill has been refer'd to the attorney & Solicitor General who have thoroughly considered it with every disposition to listen to his Graces claims ; the Treasury have heard his objections to those parts of the report, which he disputes, & are ready to give way wherever they can, but, as the agreement made between the Crown & his father was confirmed by an act of Parliament, that act is the only proper interpretation of the intention of the agreement, & the Lords of the Treasury can not take upon themselves to put a different meaning upon that Act than what the Law Officers of the Crown have put upon it. They have however, been ready to attend to every one of the Dukes objections which has any colour ; In that view, they have been willing to give way to the demand of the Salmon fishery in the Bays, because the word, *Fisheries* is found among the reservations, although the Atty & Solr. Genl. seem to think that by that reservation he is entitled only to the River fisheries. The principal point in dispute is the *Herring Custom*, which both the Reports give to the Crown, which the Parliament has appropriated to the support of the Harbours in the Island, which was never redemanded by the late Duke & which there seems to be no pretence for including amongst the rights referred to the family. The Treasury how willing soever they may be to oblige the Duke, can not find a reason or even the smallest pretext to justify them in taking this revenue from the Island, to the service of which it is now appropriated, & giving it again to the family of Atholl.

The *Herring Custom* is a Duty of 10sh: per annum upon every boat employed in the Herring fishery.

Friday 10. *May* [1781].

No. 3333—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *May* 19*th.* 1781.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to Your Majesty the letter just received from Admiral Darby ; and also an account of the sailing of the convoy from Bremer Leghe.

No. 3334—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *May* 21. 1781.

I submit to your Majesty, the Drt of an answer to M. Simolin. The general Idea was proposed at the last Meeting of the Cabinet and approved but the Drt was not then drawn. Your Majesty will find in this Box an important Letter from Genl. Nawiel and one that from the Nature of the Business seems to require an immediate answer But I cannot presume to prepare the answer, nor have any Communication with the Chairman & Deputy Chairman of the India Company upon the Subject till I have received Your Majesty's Commands.

A Person has been with me this Morning who has a Project of cutting some Dutch Ships out of the Harbour in consequence of a secret understanding he has with two smugglers on board of one of these ships He did not explain to me this Project but has communicated it to Mr. Stephens who as this man tells me approves the Idea His Business with me was to apply for a Pardon or at least the Promise of a Pardon for the two Smugglers There certainly would be great objection to a Pardon granted now, but if Your Majesty should think proper to authorise me to promise a Pardon in case of essential Service performed that would answer the Purpose.

No. 3335—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

I think it my duty to lose no Time in laying before your Majesty the enclosed Papers which I have this moment received I shall wait your Majestys commands upon the whole Business before I have any communication on the subject with the chairman & Deputy chairman.

The same messenger has brought pretty long dispatches in cypher from Sir James Harris but as there is little expectation of their containing anything agreeable I shall not put Mr Fraser to the inconvenience of decyphering them by candle light.

St. James's *May* 21 [1781]. $\frac{13}{m}$ *p. Nine* P.M.

No. 3336—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The East India Company must have the most grateful sense of your Majestys Great Goodness to them. I will immediately obey your Majestys commands and appoint the chairman and Deputy chairman for this evening by which Time I hope to get the necessary Papers translated. If there is no Delay in their signing the Agreement I flatter myself that I shall be able to get the Drts for General Fawcit ready to be laid before your Majesty tomorrow morning.

Portland Place *May* 22. 1781
$\frac{30}{m}$ *p. Nine* A.M.

No. 3337—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that a motion made today in the House for applying to the public three fourths of the surplus nett profits carried to the East India Company since the reduction of their Bond Debt to £1,500,000 has pass'd the Committee of India affairs by a great majority

Ayes. 151.
Naes. 59.

Wednesday Evening
May 23 [1781]. $\frac{1}{2}$ *pt* 10. P.M.

No. 3338—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

I have endeavoured to form the inclosed Note according to the Directions Your Majesty was pleased to give me, if it meets with your Majesty's approbation I will read it this evening to the chairman and Deputy chairman whom I have sent to appoint.

St. James's *May* 23. 1781
$\frac{15}{m}$ *p. five* P.M.

No. 3339—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *May 24th.* 1781.
$\frac{13}{m}$ P.M.

I am very sorry that the awkward Blunder I made gave your Majesty so much Trouble I have this Moment seen the chairman and Deputy chairman who expressed the most grateful sense of your Majesty's Great Goodness. They have taken the Proposal with them, and will I doubt not immediately sign a proper agreement. I cancelled in their presence their agreement to Monsr. Scheiters Proposal.

They of their own accord mentioned Genl. Caillaud to me as the properest Person that could be found.

No. 3340—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *May* 28. 1781
$\frac{50}{m}$ *p. Nine* P.M.

Mr. Edens dispatch seemed to me so important that I carried it to the last Meeting. The unanimous opinion was that the Requisition the Commanding officer in the sound was orderd to make was such as your Majestys subjects ought not to be permitted to comply with. and that a messenger ought to be dispatched to Mr. Eden with Instructions the general Idea of which was chaulked out in conversation but nothing taken down in writing, the meeting having judged proper to leave the making of the drt. entirely to me. A drt. agreeable to the general Idea is now submitted to Your Majesty, and if it has yr Majestys approbation I propose dispatching the Messenger tomorrow, I had this morning a letter from Capt. Cathcart dated off Madeira the 30th of March. The whole fleet under commodore Johnstone was together, sailing with a fair wind, and in perfect Health & Spirits.

No. 3341—*Mr. Wentworth to* [?].

[29 *May*, 1781.]
Tuesday 1 *o'clock.* P.M.

My dear Sir—From seven o'Clock yesterday Evening till this moment (except five-Hours) have I been finding out what I have written on the inclosed Sheets. The Ink & paper are both so bad, that it is truely the most disagreeable office in the world to discover the words first at various distances & then fill up the impenetrable spaces by guesses in many parts. I am sorry there is nothing from America, & yet if Dr. Franklin wrote to a Friend at Rotterdam, Green's Second defeat, it must have been known at Paris the 19 Inst.

I am ever most sincerely Y. faithfully devoted Humble servant Wentworth.

No. 3342—*A letter of intelligence.*

Paris 19 *May*,
receđ 20*th* 1781.

When I wrote about La Motte Piquets waiting for orders, it was certainly for the 28th april, for I had it from M. G—n—r who read it thursday in a letter from M. Lamotte to M. de la Touche; but His orders did arrive the 25 within a few Hours after the post left Brest. People of high rank here talk as positively & are as busy in putting about false or true occurrances; and thus I exert my best endeavours to discriminate & sift what I hear before I report it, yet it is impossible to avoid being sometimes deceived; and the more as you require intelligence by every Mail. M. sent last Thursday an account of M. Neckars Memorial, not only to M. Maurepas but to the King—M. Maurepas pretends to be ill—but M. Neckar is gone this morning to Marly, fully resolved to resign, or be admitted to the Council. M——. cannot get through his affairs here so as to see the hazard of Crossing the Sea, or He would come to *you*, but He could take a pass for Orleans &c. & meet you at *Ostend* on a precise day & without delay return again, doing all you think usefull, to make Govt. safe in binding him to his wishes: the sooner the better, before the Harvest-season is passed. Laurent & Saml. Payne set

out yesterday Morning for Brest. the Capturing that fleet will be a decisive stroke to American independance.

PARIS 20 *May*
Receđ 28—1781.

M. Neckar was graciously received by the Queen, but she told him, the situation of things made it impossible to comply with his demands.

PARIS 22*d*. *May*
receđ the 28. 1781.

The Spanish fleet is said to have gone to Sea, but I am not certain of it. On M. Neckars resignation, India actions fell from 1972½ to 1900, & the discount rose from 8 to 11½ on rescriptions &c. Mr Fleury sent the Court Banker, & first Clerk of the Royal Treasury to assure the merchants on the Exchange that all engagements made during M. Neckars administration should be sacred: & the same principle pursued. M. Beausquiene [?] also bought considerably so that the fall was checked. But the run on the Caisse d'Escompte continues, & every Note brought in for Payment, which has put a stop to discounting these: and the best men consider M. Neckars retreat as a fatal stab to the Credit of France, & to the independancy of America. The audience at the french Comedy were so loud in their disapprobation, that additional Guards were called in M. Neckar went yesterday to the Control Generall but returned to S^{t} Ouen at Night. M. de fleury has accepted, without title, only adinterim, & looks up to the Seals. *260*—(Mr. D.) has learnt from the Dutch E. India Company Deputys here, that it is in negotiation to pay a large sum to France, for which they are to furnish a suff^{t} force against your India Settlements: besides the force on their own account, & both to make vigorous efforts there. No other than a frigate is yet appointed for our friend Laurent at Brest. no news of the Actif which seperated from Mr Lamotte Piquet.

It is a secret, but true, that M. Maurepas offered to resign his present occupation, & tendered his services in some other department, mentioning the Marine, which M. De Castries, had offered to resign to M. Neckar, if it was thought proper to place him there. M. Maurepas by means of the Count d' Artois had gained Madame de Polignac & the Queen, yet the King was so firmly inclined to support Neckar, that they could not venture

to dismiss him, though He was worked up to ask what was intended to be refused, & so make it expedient for Him to resign. The King has for some time passed relied on Neckar only, but secretly, as a Friend—He has not However proved so firm as Neckar expected. they contrived on Saturday to prevent Neckar from seeing Him at Marly—fearing He would yield to Neckars demands. In His last memorial to the King—He calls the manner of directing the former Memorial on Provincial-administration, a Mischevious-*trahison*—meaning to reprobate Monsieur, who He found had let out the Secret. He was popular in the Provinces, where great uneasiness will arise. If Govt. pursues the system of provincial administrations, the Parliament will quarrel ; & so abandon them, will discontent many Provinces, which had experienced, & others which were impatiently waiting to experience, the good effects of these Assemblys. The last thing Neckar did was to agree with the Count of Spain for purchasing one or two Millions of Dollars to be sent from the Havanah to Martinique, which I believe is intended to go with the Fleet & Troops from Hence to North America.

No. 3343.

House of Commons.

31st May 1781.

Speakers on the Public Business in the House of Commons this Day.

Lord North moved an Instruction to the Committee of the whole House on the Bill for continuing the Act to appoint Commissioners for Examining taking and stating the public Accounts that they so imposed to receive a clause or clauses for referring the Extras of the army to their Examination Agt. the amendment.

Lord North

Mr. Bowlbey as to a particular part of the Contract made by Genl Burgoyne for Horses for the train of Artillery & provision Train entred into by Genl B

Mr. Barre moved an Amendnt to that Question that they shd. immy proceed on the Contracts & Agreements made by the Treasury for the Supplies—

For the Amendments
Genl Burgoyne—
Mr Burke—

Lord Advocate—

Question for the Amendment put—and Negatived without a Division—

Mr. Burke then moved anor amendment to Lord Norths motion that the Commissioners be directed to inquire into the large Sums of Money remitted to America over and above the ordinary & extraordinary supplies—

Question put and Negatived—No Division. Mr. Barre then moved that it be an Instructn to the Committee to receive a clause or clauses to remove the now Commissioners, and to add others persons as Commissioners being members of Parliament.

Against the Motion		For it
Lord North—		Mr. Wm. Pitt—
The House divided——	Ayes——42	
	Noes——98	

The House then went into a Committee of the whole House on the Commissioners of Accounts Bill, filled up the Blanks, & passed it in the Committee, and then adjourned until tomorrow.

No. 3344—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *June 1st* [1781].
$\frac{40}{m}$ *p four.* P.M.

I take the first opportunity of laying before your Majesty the Papers I have just rec[d] from Ct Beljioso, M. de Simolin is instructed to make a similar communication My only answer to Ct Beljioso was that tho his observations se presentent en foule, I would not allow myself to make any upon a subject of such importance without having had your Majesty's commands, that whatever opinion your Majesty might entertain of the Proposal you would always do justice to the sentiments and Motives of the Mediators, it is really surprising to me that a Minister of Prince Kaunitz's sense and experience should entertain the least expectation of such articles being agreed to.

No. 3345—*Lord North to the King.*

[1 *June* 1781.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that Mr. Banks having moved to put off the second reading of the India Bill for three months a division ensued, when the numbers were. Ayes 53
Naes 42

The second reading was then appointed for Friday.

There was another division upon a motion of Mr. Minchin for the correspondence with Spain for an exchange of prisoners.

Ayes 29
Naes 53.

Mr. Burke having afterwards made a motion upon the same subject, which was negatived.

Ayes 32
Naes 52

No. 3346.

1º June 1781

Speakers on Public Business in the House of Commons this Day—

Lord North—presented the East India Bill and moved that it be now read a first time

Lord North in answer

Mr Banks opposed this & moved that the word *now* be left out, in order to incert the words this Day three Months—

Lord Nugent

Mr. Dempster

Gen[l] R[d] Smith—

Mr Powis—

The House divided— Ayes 53—
Naes 42—

After which the Second reading was appointed for Friday next Mr. Minchin moved for the correspondence and Papers relative to the N° of British Prisoners now in the Prisons in Spain—

	against it
Mr Webb—for it	Lord North
Mr. Tho Townshend	S^{r} R^{d} Sutton
Mr. Newman	Ld Lisburne

For Mr. Minchin's Motion— Agt it

Lord G. Germain

The House Divided

Ayes 29
Naes 53—

Mr Burke moved That it appeared that great Numbers of British Seaman were Prisoners in Spain, and that it did not appear to that House that any proper Steps had been taken for their release, altho' Seamen were so much wanted for our Service—

for it	
Mr Burke	Lord North
Mr Minchin	Lord Lisburne
Mr Dempster	
Gen^{l} R^{d} Smith	
Mr Webb—	The House divided
Sir George Younge	Ayes 32
	Naes 52

No. 3347—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 374.

I was pleased at receiving Lord North's Account last night of the first reading of the India Bill; it is surprising the House should have been detained by two Divisions on the Exchange of Spanish Prisoners.

After I came from St James's I read the strange Paper Count Belgioso has been ordered by his Court to deliver, which either shews that Austria has not quitted Her late partiality to the House of Bourbon or that to gain the Court of Russia the

Sentiments of Panin are to guide the Mediators, I owne with either of those opinions I cannot expect any good will be obtained through either of those Courts and as with the Many Enemies we have had to deal with our own Bravery next to the Assistance of Providence and the Justice of our Cause has alone supported us so to that alone must we trust for a restoration of an honourable Peace, and any other I will never put my hand to.

QUEEN'S HOUSE
June 2^{d} 1781 $\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 8 P.M.

No. 3348.

Copy. MINUTE OF CABINET.

At Ld Sandwich's June 2nd. 1781

Present

Seal. The Whole Cabinet except Ld Privy Seal

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that *Twenty six* Sail of ships of the Line be appropriated to the Western Squadron, that admiral Darby be ordered to go to sea as soon as twenty of the above Line of Battle Ships are fit for Service.

Agreed that it be also submitted to His Majesty that admiral Digby be ordered to go to North America with three ships of the Line to relieve Admiral Arbuthnot in the command.

No. 3349—*The King to Lord North.*

The enclosed letter I received yesterday from Ld Hertford to which I returned no answer not chusing to take any Step till Lord North has returned the papers I put into his [hands] on Friday concerning the Application for the Suffolk Living but I think He ought to see this letter. I hope they will be returned to Me tomorrow that I may that evening let Ld. Hertford have again his correspondence with Ld Archibald Hamilton.

QUEENS HOUSE
June 3^{d} 1781.
$\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 10. A.M.

No. 3350—*Lord Dartmouth to the King.*

Sir—I am persuaded that your Majesty will not think I mean to deceive you, when I assure your Majesty that it is a great mortification to me to find myself unable to pay my Duty to your Majesty to-day, upon an occasion, in which no man more sincerely rejoices than I do. The heat of the weather during my journey from Bath, has reduced my strength, & for the Present, in the opinion of Sr Richd Jebb, disabled me from appearing before your Majesty in public

Whenever your Majesty shall think fit to command my attendance upon you, I trust I shall be able to obey your Majesty's Orders.

I am with the highest Respect gratitude & affection, Sir, Yr Majesty's most dutiful Subject & Servant Dartmouth.

St James's Square
June 4 1781.

No. 3351—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending back to His Majesty a red Box he received from him on Sunday. which he had look'd for in vain for some time as it had been laid amongst other boxes and papers; It appears clearly to Lord North, that Lord Hertford ought under the circumstances of the case to give way to Lord Archibald Hamilton, although Lord Archibald never had, what indeed, he never claims, a positive promise; The conversation which pased between Lord Archibald & Lord North, may, probably, have been favourable to Lord Archibald's expectations, but it is not in Lord North's power to recollect conversations of that kind for six years together: His memory never could have done it, and it is now extremely impaired, Old Claims of this sort are frequently set up and add much to his distress pointing out at the same time, that he grows every day, less capable of the attention which his situation requires.

June 6th [1781].

Lord North has added two strange letters of intelligence, which he received from Mr. Robinson.

No. 3352—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 375.

I shall not take any Step towards Ld. Hertford till I have seen Ld. North on Friday; I own I agree with him in opinion that though Ld. Archibald Hamilton had no promise of the living intended for Ld. Hertford's Son, yet that its being the Parish in which He lives unless He had [been] an avowed Enemy to Government He had a better right to have his Recommendation Attended to than any other Person, and I should think that a very natural line for Ld. North on such Occasions to follow.

The Intelligence from France is curious, and proves that either the power of the Queen will soon be much exercised or that it will be entirely anihilated.

WINDSOR *June 6th.* 1781.

$\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 5 P.M.

No. 3353—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *June 6th* 1781

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty the dispatches, as allso a private letter received this morning from Sir George Rodney.

Your Majesty will allso find a letter from admiral Kempenfelt whom admiral Darby has Seen since he wrote the said letter; & it appears clearly to Lord Sandwich from the said letter & admiral Darbys report, that Mr Kempenfelt will not resign his employment, but will go on in his former station the latter end of the summer, when he will have had a month or six weeks to reestablish his health which is considerably impaired. Admiral Darby sets out for Portsmouth this afternoon in order to proceed to sea immediately for the protection of the Channel, with ten or twelve sail of the Line & to cruize for that purpose for a month: this measure is absolutely necessary as we have received information that the Jamaica fleet sailed from Port Royal the 17th of March, & may therefore be hourly expected.

No. 3354—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 376.

WINDSOR. *June 9th* 1781.
$\frac{m}{12}$ *pt.* 8 A.M.

I am much pleased to find by Lord North's note that the East India Bill for paying 600,000 £ to the Public was ordered Yesterday to be Committed by so handsome a Majority considering the advance Season of the Year.

No. 3355.

Copy. MINUTE OF CABINET.

At Lord Hillsborough June 9 1781

Present

The Whole Cabinet except Lord Privy Seal and Ld G. Germain.

Answers to be given to the Papers marked A. and B. delivered last week by the Imperial and Russian Ministers were read and with some small alterations approved Ld Privy Seal & Ld G. Germain have since signified their approbation.

No. 3356—*The King to Lord North.*

WINDSOR *June 12th* 1781.
$\frac{m}{45}$ *pt.* 7. A.M.

The Bill for Directing the Treasurers and Paymasters to pay their Balances into the Exchequer I see by Lord North's note went Yesterday through the Committee ; I am glad to See Ld. Mahon moved an Amendment and tried a Division as the Majority against it was so very great.

I return the Intelligence Ld. North Sent at the Same time and that He transmitted on Friday.

No. 3357—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 376.

WINDSOR *June* 13*th* 1781

$\frac{m}{25}$ *pt.* 7. A.M.

It is difficult to express which appears more strongly the manly fortitude of the Great Majority last night in rejecting the hacknied question of a Committee for considering the American War, or the impudence of the Minority in again bringing it forward; for whoever the most ardently wishes for Peace, must feel that every repition [*sic*] of this question in Parliament only makes the Rebels and the Bourbon family more desirous of continuing the War from the hopes of tiring out this Country; We have it not at this hour in our power to make Peace it is by steadiness and exertions that we are to get into a situation to effect it; and with the Assistance of Divine Providence I am confident we shall soon find our Enemies forced to look for that Blessing; among our many misfortunes I feel one satisfaction that we have but one line to follow therefore at least diffidences and perplexity cannot attend us, and We have the greatest Objects to make us zealous in our pursuit for we are contending for our whole consequence whether we are to rank among the Great Powers of Europe or be reduced to one of the least considerable; He that is not stimulated by this consideration does not deserve to be a Member of this Community.

No. 3358—*Mr. Morse to Mr. Chamberlayne.*

WHITEHALL, 14*th June* 1781.

SIR—Lord Amherst directs me to transmit to you the enclosed Letter and to say, in compliance with Mr. Hammond's wishes, that his Lordship saw him once during the late Riots and that he appeared to be very desirous of being usefull in putting a Stop to them, and in getting information regarding them; and that the like Dispositions in Mr. Hammond have been reported to Lord Amherst from several Officers who had opportunities of seeing more of him.

I am, etc. LEOD MORSE.

No. 3359—*Mr. Robt. Digby to the King.*

Sir—I have found my Brother full of Gratitude for Your Majesty's great attention and goodness to him, and he desires nothing so much as to do whatever shall be most pleasing to your Majy. and in which he can be found most usefull. But as Your Majys commission condescended to direct me to find out, what wd. be most pleasing to my Brot: I should not execute it faithfully, if I did not add that he will be happy to accept Your Majesty's very obliging offer— At the same time, If he can be usefull where he is, He desires he may not be remov'd.

As nothing can give him so much satisfaction as to prove how sensible he is of Yr: great goodness to him Yr: Majesty's very Faithfull and Dutiful Servant Robt. Digby.

Redlynch
Monday June Ye 17 :
1781.

No. 3360—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *June* 19 1780 [? 1781]
$\frac{40}{m}$ *p. ten.* A.M.

I will immediately obey your Majesty's commands and inform Lord Mansfield that you can come to the House at half hour past two. It was the General opinion of yr Majesty's confidential servants that the speech is considerably improved by the alterations it has received and I am happy to find that opinion confirmed by Yr Majestys Judgment.

as it is now determined that there shall be seperate adresses I am preparing that for the House of Lords The answer shall be sent to your Majesty tomorrow morning.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3361—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

I trouble Your Majesty in consequence of repeated applications from Lord advocate founded on those he has received in favour of angus Carrick who is respited to the 29th instant.

There is great Reason to believe that he disclosed the whole circumstances of the Robbery upon expectation given him of a conditional Pardon. and much inconvenience might arise from disappointing that expectation.

St James's *June* 21 1781.

No. 3362—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *June 24th*, 1781.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty all the account he can procure of the skirmish that has happened in the West Indies.

The Vigilant is passed by Portsmouth for the Downs & no letters are come from her to this office.

Lord Sandwich encloses a private letter from Admiral Darby on account of the Postscript which mentions the death of Captain Nott.

Your Majesty will allso find a list of Sir George Rodneys present force.

Lord Sandwich allso sends the letter received yesterday from Admiral Arbuthnot with the State & disposition of his squadron, to which is to be added the Warwick of 50 guns, of whose arrival, it is to be supposed he had not been informed. Two vessels are sailed with orders to Admiral Darby to come between Scilly & the Lizard in order to his being reinforced. Everything is ready for Lord Mulgraves expedition, and as we expect the man back tomorrow who has been to reconnoitre, if his accounts are favourable the business will probably be undertaken, the middle of the week.

No. 3363.

Minute of Cabinet.

Copy. at Lord Amherst's June 30 1781

Present

The Whole Cabinet except Ld. Privy Seal.

A project of a Convention with Denmark was read and the Idea of making the attempt approved to be submitted to His Majesty.

No. 3364—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *July 2nd* 1781.

The Project in the other Box now submitted to Your Majesty was read to the Meeting on Saturday last and approved, if it meets with Your Majesty's approbation it is proposed to send full Powers to Mr Eden with orders to make the attempt. I have but faint hope of the success of it, but there should I think be every proper endeavour to break the Confederacy that is forming in the North and which altho it would not be dangerous at any other Time might become so in the present conjuncture.

No. 3365—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *July 2nd* 1781
Eleven o'clock P.M.

As I found the Drts could not be prepared so as to be sent to Your Majesty at a Proper Time I directed the Messenger to wait till tomorrow Morning.

The Debate was so uninteresting as to be quite unworthy of Your Majesty's attention. Ld Sandwich in answer to the D. of Richmond's motion stated the facts very clearly & took very proper ground. Ld Loughborough spoke well. The D. of Richmond was in general calm & temperate, but not able, and seemed to feel that he had a very bad cause to support. Lord Abingdon complained that the Debate was so confined that he could not find an opportunity to introduce a Speech he had prepared upon the American lien [?].

No. 3366—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that the Bishop of Ely died this morning, & that he has reason to think that Lord Hardwicke, & all the family of Yorke will consider themselves as highly obliged by his Majesty if his Majesty will translate the Bishop of Gloucester to the vacant See. The Bishoprick of Ely is worth about £3600 per annum,

& being considerably powerful both in the County & University of Cambridge this promotion will be peculiarly agreable to the family; at the same time, the Bishop of Gloucester's age, standing, & respectable character will recommend it to the public approbation.

Dr. Home did not receive Ld. North's letter time enough to attend yesterday at the Levée, but he is now in Town, & proposes to pay his dutiful & grateful acknowledgements to his Majesty at St James's on Wednesday next.

The death of the Baron Maule having vacated a seat in the Court of Exchequer in Scotland, many applications for it have come to London, but Lord North imagines that none will appear so well-founded as Mr Stuart Moncrieffe's who has been long deputy Remembrancer of the Court, & is supposed to be better acquainted with the business of it than any other person in Scotland, hardly excepting the Barons themselves; He is willing to accept it at the old salary of £700 a year without the additional £50 which, by a mistake crept into the two last Patents; The appointment of Baron of the Exchr. originates in the Secretary of State's Office, but the Court is so much more connected with the Board of Treasury, that Lord North believes that the recommendations have always been laid before the Crown by the first Lord.

Another place is become vacant by the death of Baron Maule, concerning which Lord North has troubled his Majesty before; The inclosed letter states the claim of Mr A. Stuart, which Lord North, therefore, takes the liberty of sending to his Majesty, & thinks himself obliged, in justice to the Writer, to say that, to the best of his recollection, the facts he has stated are true.

Downing Street *July* 7 1781.

No. 3367—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *July 7th.* 1781

Lord Sandwich is sorry to be obliged to apprize your Majesty that you will find by the enclosed papers that the new Pilots do not come up to what they seemed to promise before they left London.

Under the circumstances on which the matter now stands, it

seems impossible for this office to give positive orders to pursue the undertaking, as it would be highly criminal, in case the expedition failed, to have given such orders after the examination of the Pilots, who all declare that the Ships cannot get out without a fair wind.

The utmost that Lord Sandwich thinks can be done in this state of things, is to send the orders to Ld. Mulgrave this night, if they meet with your Majesty's approbation, which will be found herewith; your Majesty will observe that if the Sea Officers think the scheme practicable they are at liberty to undertake it, if they are of opinion that it is impracticable and should have positive orders to go on, they would be the first to complain of the impropriety of those orders, which would be reprobated by the whole navy, & indeed by all mankind.

While Lord Sandwich is writing he has the satisfaction to hear of Admiral Darby's safe arrival off Scilly, which takes a great burthen from off his mind, as there is reason to believe that the French are at sea with double his force; we shall now reinforce him without delay or danger.

Your Majesty will have the goodness to return this box as soon as convenient, as Ld. Mulgrave's Lieutenant cannot be dispatched till we know whither the intended orders are honoured with your Majesty's approbation.

No. 3368—*The King to Lord North.*

WINDSOR *July 7th.* 1781.
$\frac{m}{15}$ P. $\frac{h}{8}$ P.M.

On the death of the Bishop of Ely, my regard for the family of Yorke makes me willingly appoint the Bishop of Gloucester to that See; Ld. North will therefore apprize some of [the] family of it that the Bishop may be on Wednesday at St. James's; He must be succeeded by a Clergyman from Cambridge I trust Ld. North will consult the Archbishop of Canterbury and acquaint Him that I wish to confer the Bishoprick on the Clergyman who for private Character, as well as orthodoxy and learning may seem best qualified to be brought on the Bench.

Ld. Stormont acquainted me yesterday with the Death of

Baron Maule and said as that Office was so much connected with the Treasury He should not think himself authorized to recommend to it as He does to the Lords of Session ; the recommendation Ld. North has made seems to be the most proper ; Ld. Stormont has recommended to the other Office the Solicitor General of Scotland and I imagine at the instigation of Ld. Mansfield I therefore shall say nothing on that Office till Ld. North has spoke to Ld. Stormont.

No. 3369—*Sir George Rodney to Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Parker.*

Sandwich Carlisle Bay
Barbadoes 9 *July* 1781.

Sir—I send this Express to inform you that the Enemy's Fleet, compos'd of 28 sail of the Line, and 6 Frigates, with the Trade of their Islands, have left Martinique : by the report of the Frigates order'd to watch them, they were steering to the North West, in order, I suppose to take up the Trade of Guadaloupe, and are certainly bound to St. Domingo.

By the last Dispatches I received from Administration, Monsr. DeGrasse was to return to Europe ; and that, 14 sail of the Line, were to join their Squadron in North America, and that, the French Convoy from the Cape, were to sail the beginning of August for Europe.

As the Enemy have few Troops on board, and the Season so far advanced, I am convinced, they can have no Design upon Jamaica ; however, I think it absolutely necessary, to send you this Express, that you may be upon your Guard, and to assure you, the motions of the Enemy, will be strictly attended to.

The Convoy from Great Britain, is shortly expected in these Seas, notwithstanding I may follow the Enemy myself, I shall leave the strictest Orders, that it be protected to Jamaica ; and hasten'd there, with a large Store ship call'd the Flora, now in this Road, and destin'd for the use of the Squadron under your Command.

Inclos'd, Sir, I send you a seal'd Rendezvous, which I must desire you will deliver to Capt. Stow, when you dispatch him to me, with an Account of the Situation of Affairs at Jamaica ; and

which, I must desire, you will please to give him the strictest Orders, he does not open, 'till he gets without the windward passage, or into the Ocean.

I have, etc. G. B. Rodney

Copy.

No. 3370.

Minute of Cabinet.

at Lord President's July 12. 1781

Present

The whole cabinet except Lord Chancellor and Lord Privy Seal.

Agreed that it be submitted to his Majesty that admiral Digby should wait to sail with admiral Darby provided he (Darby) is ready to sail on or before Monday next but that admiral Digby be ordered to sail at all events as soon after Monday as wind and weather will permit.

No. 3371—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 377.

Windsor *July* 14*th.* 1781.

The draught of the Speech fully deserves my Approbation, I am not therefore surprised it met with the concurrence of the Cabinet yesterday; I hope by Monday that I shall receive the fair copy of the Draught with any alterations that may occurr on having communicated it to the Chancillor, if the Parliament can be up on Wednesday I desire Ld. North will give notice to the Chancillor and the Speaker that I will that Day close this long Session, and to Ld. Stormont that a Cabinet may be held immediately after the Levee for the communication of the Speech previous to my going that day to Parliament.

The more I reflect on the hint Ld. North gave me on Wednesday of Dr. Balguy as a proper person to fill the See of Gloucester, the more I am convinced he is the first Man in point of reputation in the Republic of Letters of either University; besides it was He put an end to the Meeting some years ago at the Feathers by

the Charge he published as ArchDeacon of Winchester ; I desire Ld. North will therefore without loss of time offer in my name the See of Gloucester, should He refuse it, which I do not expect, I know the offer will do credit and no other person can think it a dishonor to be called upon after so superior a Man.

I enclose Ld. Stormont's letter concerning the vacant Scotch Office that Ld. North knowing what he says may be the better enabled to draw him out of a mistake ; if Ld. Stormont was to see the Advocate perhaps that would be the best means of clearing it up who I believe can with truth say that my name had been used in the transaction.

I enclose the last letter from Aristarchus not for the excellence of his Intelligence but because He continually Duns for a continuation of the Pay for his Emanuenses I therefore desire Ld. North to direct Mr. Robinson once more but to give him a note at the same time declaring the Intelligence must now cease for that He is not to continue the pay any longer.

No. 3372—*The King to Lord North.*

WINDSOR *July* 17*th.* 1781.

Lord North will give notice that I shall be at three tomorrow at the House of Lords to close this long Session of Parliament, the Speech on the Occasion meets with my fullest Approbation.

No. 3373—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending his Majesty several letters which he has received from Mr. Deane, in order to be sent as intercepted letters to America ; They are very voluminous, & Lord North has been able to read only two of them. When they are published in America Mr. Deane will not be able to return, (as it appears to Lord North) without a re-union between Great Britain & the Colonies, & Mr Deane seems in that respect, to have acted fairly, & to have put himself into his Majesty's power. But the letters are written with so much zeal for a reconciliation that they will, (Lord North fears) have too much the air of being written in concert with this country. As soon as his Majesty has read what he thinks proper of them, He will be so good as to

return them, that duplicates may be made, & the letters sent as soon as possible to America.

Sion Hill. *July* 19. 1781.

No. 3374—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 380.

I have received Lord North's Boxes containing the intercepted letters from Mr. Deane for America. I have only been able to read two upon which I form the same opinion of too much appearance of being concerted with this Country and therefore not likely to have the effect as if they bore another aspect; I return them and hope when the Copies have been taken to be able to read them at my leisure for it is impossible in a hurry to form any solid opinion concerning them. The extract from Franklin is very material, should France not supply America amply I think it has the Appearance that this long contest will end as it ought by the Colonies returning to the Mother Country; and I confess I will never put my hand to any other conclusion of this business.

Kew *July* 19*th.* 1781.

$\frac{m}{2}$ PM.

No. 3375—*Lord North to the King.*

[21 *July*, 1781.]

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty, that he has proposed to Sr. Adam Ferguson & Mr. Storer to come into the Board of Trade in the room of Lord Robert Spencer, & Mr Langlois, as Lord Walsingham is unwilling to quit without another appointment. Mr Langlois never attends the Board, & is not in Parliament. He may, with his Majesty's permission, hold a pension till he has another place. While the Comptroller of the Household continues vacant the expense will not be increased, & Lord North hopes to make soon an arrangement for him.

Wednesday morn.

P.S. Lord North thinks it possible that Sr. Adam & Mr. Storer may be at the Levée this morning to kiss hands.

No. 3376—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *July* 23 1781.

As soon as I receive Your Majesty's Commands respecting the office vacant by the death of Baron Maule I propose sending an answer to Lord Norths Letter. The very gracious Manner in which Your Majesty was pleased to express yourself upon the occasion, the Goodness with which you are pleased to enter into the feelings of all your servants and my earnest desire to give such an answer as shall meet with Your Majestys approbation, make me presume to lay before Your Majesty what has occurred to me upon the subject. My only aim is to prevent Your Majestys ever being troubled with any thing of the like nature again.

No. 3377—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

Your Majesty will see in the Drt. submitted to you the Manner in which I endeavour to avoid all Discussion with Mr. Dryer upon the subject of his last Memorial which is so strongly marked with that sort of illbred petulance that is so apt to mix itself with his Productions. Being uncertain whether your Majesty will approve this Expedient I shall keep back the Note to Mr. Dryer till the Messenger returns.

St. James's *July* 24. 1781.

No. 3378—*The King to Lord Stormont.*

Windsor *July 26th.* 1781.

Upon weighing the whole subject of the Application in favour of Mr. Andrew Stuart for the Office Vacant by the death of Baron Maule I do find that this Office is the only one that would answer to the engagement entered into by Ld. Suffolk and Ld. North that Gentleman giving up the Half of the Office He held jointly with the Ld. Advocate of Scotland to accommodate that able Servant of the Crown. I desire Ld. Stormont will now order the Warrant to be prepared in his favour; I should not have delayed

it so long had not some intricacies made me very desirous of fully ascertaining the fact that this is the Specific Office to which the above engagement had been made with my previous knowledge.

Draft.

No. 3379.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

at Lord Sandwich's July 26. 1781

Present

The Whole Cabinet except Ld. Privy Seal.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that Six Ships of the Line at least including the St. Albans supposed to have sailed, be sent as soon as possible to the Leward Islands and Jamaica.

Agreed that as the present situation of the affairs of the East India Company requires a considerable addition to the Military Force in India that two thousand Men including three hundred dismounted Cavalry should be ready to embark for the East Indies by the first of next October. It being understood that the East India Company will have the vessels necessary for transporting the above force ready by that Day.

No. 3380—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

As the Dispatches brought by *Flint* are material I dispatch the Messenger with such as could be got ready for Your Majestys perusal, without waiting for three long letters from S^{r} J. Harris which cannot be decypher'd till to-morrow. The signature of the Treaty and the Great Duke & Duchess journey seem strongly to indicate the downfal of the Prussian Interest at Petersburgh.

ST JAMES'S *July* 30. 1781.

$\frac{30}{m}$ *p. one.* P.M.

No. 3381—*Sir George Rodney to Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Parker.*

GIBRALTAR, BASSE TERRE
ROAD ST. CHRISTOPHERS 30 *July*
1781.

SIR—As the Enemy have a very great Naval force in North America, I must beg you will dispatch the Torbay, and Prince William, without detaining them a single moment; and also, that you will add to their Force by sending to that Country ev'ry line of Battle Ship, you can possibly spare from your Station.

I have, etc. G. B. RODNEY

Copy.

No. 3382—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North begs leave to return his Majesty his most dutiful & most grateful acknowledgements for the enquiry he has done him the honour to make concerning his late indisposition; It was always slight, being, at the worst, no more than a feverish cold, & is now entirely over; Lord North is, however, advised to stay this week at Bushy unless his presence is particularly required in Town, & he intreats his Majesty's pardon for not having paid his duty at St. James's, which this accident has prevented.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing two letters from Dr. Balguy, in which his Majesty will see that the Doctor declines the Bishoprick but in a very gratefull & commendable manner.

Lord North takes the liberty of adding another letter from Mrs. Cornwallis wife of the Dean of Canterbury concerning a very extraordinary note Lord North had received from the Dean, in which he likewise, from his state of health, wished to decline the Bishoprick of Lichfield, for which he had actually kiss'd his Majesty's hand in company with his successors in the Deanery & Living of Wrotham. Lord North thought the proceeding so singular, & embarassing, & that it would have so bad an appearance with respect to the Dean himself, that he desired Mr. Townshend to dissuade him from his intention, & promised that he would not mention the matter to his Majesty till he received

a fresh application from the Dean. Mr Townshend's letter has produced the inclosed, & everything is now going on in the proper track.

Bushey Park *Aug 2nd* [1781].

No. 3383—*The King to Lord North.*

Kew *Augt. 3rd.* 1781.

The last Evening I received Ld. North's letter accompanying the two from Dr. Balguy and one from Mrs. Cornwallis ; it gave me great pleasure as it proved that Lord North's feverish cold has quite subsided ; perhaps the turtle feast in this Warm Weather may have added some fuel to it. I trust on Wednesday I shall find Ld. North thoroughly well. Dr. Balguy's conduct does him great credit, and shews that had he accepted the Bishoprick of Gloucester the motive of acting right would have alone decided him ; the being next thought of to Him is certainly an honourable Distinction, Ld. North should fairly enquire who among those educated at Cambridge stand formost as Men of letters orthodoxy and temper, the latter is an essential ingredient for doing credit to the Appointment.

I am surprised Dr. Cornwallis should have thought of retracting, nothing but illness could have made Him cherish an idea which must have entirely ruined his reputation, out of regard to the Family I am glad He has reconsidered it.

No. 3384—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing to his Majesty a letter which he proposes to send to Sir Henry Clinton together with Copies of Mr. Deane's letters. The originals will follow by the first safe opportunity ; They are sent in these boxes for his Majesty's perusal, together with two New York News-papers brought with the last dispatches.

If his Majesty approves of Lord North's letter he will be so good as to return it soon that it may be sent by the packet.

Bushey Park. *Aug*: 5. 1781.

It will not be necessary for his Majesty to hurry himself in order to return Mr. Deane's original papers, as they cannot be

sent for some days, no ship of strength being ready to sail for America. Lord North wishes only to have his letters return'd as soon as convenient to his Majesty.

Mr. Robinson has sent to Lord North the inclosed letter from Mr. Burke who seems very earnest that a small present should be made to Ragobah's agents. To be sure, if any thing is given it should be more than five guineas apiece, the noble gratification intended for them by the Directors of the E. India Company.

No. 3385—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 380.

WINDSOR *Augt. 5th.* 1781.
$\frac{m}{4}$ *p.* 11. PM.

Within this quarter of an hour I have received the two Boxes from Ld. North this is certainly not a time of night I can begin to read the contents of them; I shall certainly return them in the course of Tuesday.

Nothing can be more shameful than the conduct of the East India Directors towards the Agents from Ragobar indeed the whole conduct of the Company both at home and abroad must end in destruction if not greatly changed. Lord North may authorize Mr. Robinson to issue £200. the sum proposed by Mr. Burke to Him for furnishing the Articles these Men wish to obtain.

No. 3386—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST. JAMES'S *August* 6. 1781.

Finding that the first letter of Prince Charles of Lorrain to the late King begins with *Sire* I started very politely an objection to Ct Belgioso upon the Copy of the D. of Teschen's letter which begins with *Monseigneur*, but having now verified in the Book of Entries the instances referred to in the secret of this day to Ct Belgioso I am to ask your Majestys commands whether I am to insist upon the objection I made or receive the letter from the Duke of Teschen as it exactly corresponds with those from Prince Charles to your Majesty in 1763 & 1777.

No. 3387—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 381.

WINDSOR *Augt. 7th.* 1781.

The letter Ld. North has wrote to Sir Henry Clinton on the subject of the intercepted Letters from Mr. Deane He is transmitting to Him is very proper, and is the most likely means of rendering them of some utility ; I owne I think them too strong in our favour to bear the appearance of his spontaneous opinions, but that if supposed to be authentick they will see they have by concert fallen into our hands. The means Mr. Deane should have taken as most conducive of the object He seems now to favour, would have been first to have shewn that the hands of France are too full to be able to give any solid assistance to America & to have pointed out the ruin that must attend a further continuance of the War ; and after having given time for these opinions to be digested then have proposed the giving up all ideas of Independency and have shewn that the Country is not in a State to subsist without the assistance of some foreign Power, and that consequently so mild a Government as the British one is the most favorable that America can depend upon.

No. 3388—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Aug*: *9th* 1781

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to your Majesty an account of Admiral Parkers action with the Dutch fleet, in which one of their line of battle ships, supposed to be the second in command is sunk, & the rest in a most shattered condition driven into the Texel with their convoy. Admiral Parker is allso returning to the Nore to refit, his ships having suffered considerably.

The chief of the action is supposed to have lain upon the P^ss^ Amelia, Fortitude, Buffalo, & Dolphin, who by Lieutenant Rivetts account behaved excessively well, as did the other ships, he having heard of no complaint.

The English frigates were not engaged, tho' some of the Dutch ones were.

The English convoy had been dispatched in their way home before the action began, & is hourly expected.

No. 3389—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

August 11*th.* 1781

It did not occurr to Ld. Sandwich yesterday that the appointment of any other person to command the Yatcht than Sir Richard Bickerton would render him miserable beyond expression, he certainly flatters himself that your Majesty is satisfied with his services in the three times that he has been honoured by acting as your Captain, and would be disappointed and distressed exceedingly if that honour was conferred on any other person, while he was capable of attending his duty ; besides he is used to the business & the whole will of course go on better under his direction than that of a new man. If therefore Lord Sandwich has your Majestys permission, he will send an express to bring Sir Richard to town who will easily be there to-morrow evening.

Lord Sandwich has said nothing to the Comptroller in answer to his offer of commanding the Yatcht, therefore he can have no cause of complaint if he is told that Sir Richard is in a manner in possession of the Office of your Majestys Captain, & would think it a great disgrace to be displaced : he will be told at the same time that he may go in the Commissioners Yatcht with Ld Sandwich, & by that means be at hand to attend your Majesty during the whole voyage.

Mr Hunt (who is at Chatham) and Mr Palmer are written to be at the Admiralty tomorrow morning, & Lord Sandwich will allso see Mr Garvard ; and when the plan is settled about fitting, storing & victualling the Yatchts, Ld. Sandwich will take the liberty to trouble your Majesty to know whither the whole meets with your Majestys approbation. It is impossible to keep your Majestys intention a secret, from the orders that must be given for the fitting the two Yatchts, but the day of your sailing need not be known, which will contribute to the privacy of the expedition.

No. 3390—*Sir George Rodney to Vice-Admiral Arbuthnot.*

Gibraltar *at Sea* 13 *August* 1781

Sir—Herewith I have the Honour to inclose you Intelligence, which I received from St. Thomas's, the night before I sail'd from St. Eustatius; and to acquaint you, that I left Sir Samuel Hood, preparing, to sail with all possible Dispatch with 12 sail of the Line, 4 Frigates, and a fire Ship, for the Capes of Virginia, where, I am persuaded the French intend making their grand Effort.

Permit me therefore to recommend it to you to collect all the force you can, and form a Junction with Sir Samuel there; you will I hope 'ere this reaches you, have heard of his Approach, by his fastest sailing Frigate: which I directed him to dispatch for the purpose of looking out for Intelligence, off the Cheasapeake and Delawar.

I cannot, however, omit the Opportunity by Captain Stanhope in the Pegasus, (who comes with the Victuallers under his Convoy to New York) to give you this Information, and that the 60th. Regt. under the Command of Col: Skien, comes in Sir Samuel Hood's Squadron.

The Sandwich arm'd Frigate sail'd in Company with the Victuallers, for their better Protection; but, having sprung a Leake, I order'd her to make the best of her way to Charles Town. The French Fleet, under DeGrasse, when they left the Grenadas to collect their Convoy, consisted of 26 sail of the Line, and 2 large Ships, arm'd en flûte; and I immagine at least 12 of those Ships, and in all probability a part of Mr Vaudreuils Squadron, will be in America; and it is not impossible they may be joined by some Spanish Ships. It is certain that the Enemy intend to make an early and vigourous Campaign in the West Indies; after the Hurricane Months: I have therefore directed Sir Sam[l] Hood to return immediately, after the full Moon of October, and I must request not only that he is on no Account detained, beyond that period; but that you will add to his Force what Line of Battle Ships can possibly be spar'd from the Service in America during the Winter Season: which, you may be assured, shall be return'd as soon as the Season for Action requires them; as the Success of His Majesty's Arms

depends greatly on the mutual Support on these Stations, I am persuaded I need not urge to you the greatest Exertion at this Time.

My extream ill State of Health has made it necessary for me to avail myself of His Majesty's leave to return to England, for three Months; which has prevented me from coming myself with the Fleet to America. But I shall certainly return to the West Indies in November.

Besides the Squadron Sir Samuel Hood brings with him, two Line of Battle Ships which I sent to strengthen the Convoy to Jamaica have my Orders to proceed from thence, thro the Gulph and join him at the Cheasapeake without delay.

I have, etc. G. B. Rodney.

Copy.

No. 3391—*Admiral Kempenfelt to Chas. Middleton, Esq.*

Dr Sr—I send you a Signal book to look over, the Signals you will perceive are separated under different heads as :—

Signals by Day, from the Admiral when under Sail,
Signals from Private Ships when under Sail,
Fog Signals under Sail,
Night Signals under Sail,
Signals at Anchor by Day,
Fog and Night Signals at Anchor.

The Signals by day when under sail are classed under distinct heads, as Forming the orders of sailing relating to the orders of sailing, Tacking & Veering, Wearing, Looking out, Preparative to Action, In Action, &c.

At first view these Signals may probably appear voluminous & complicated, from that very arrangement made to simplify them, but a short acquaintance with them, will I conceive remove that Idea, and that they will then appear more distinct & less embarrassed, than when the Signals to be made by the admiral and those by Private Ships, the Signals when under sail & those made at Anchor, are jumbled together in one mass.

When under sail you have no business with Signals that only relate to being at Anchor, neither is it necessary that the Signals to be made by the admiral should be encumber'd with those to

be made by Private Ships. When these are separated they are the readier turn'd to.

The Division of any Subject under proper heads, by shewing the parts more distinct, facilitates the Comprehension of the Whole.

I have prefer'd the method of making the Signals by Day with two Flags, as it has many advantages, particularly that of being restrained to no fixed place, of great consequence in time of action if a mast should be shot away. And all near Signals may be made from the Mizen Peak, a ready & convenient place, especially in Windy Weather.

This method is preferable to the Numerary Signals as it refers you directly to the order Signify'd, whereas the other refers you, first to the Numerary Table, & that Table to the article. Besides in the Numerary way, you must use three Flags when the Number rises above one Hundred.

The method then used to make the Fog Signals is, I conceive as perfect as such Signals can be render'd.

Altho' I cant say so much for the Night Signals, yet the method then used to Signify them is certainly preferable to the old way of fixing the Lights to certain places, and displaying them in the Forms of Squares,—Diamonds, Triangles, etc., which to Ships in different situations have different appearances, a Square of four Lights to one, shall to another, from his position, seem only as two Lights.

I am in some Doubt whether the Scheme for Night Signals Inserted at the Latter end of the Book may not be preferable to that I have adopted, by that Scheme there are never more than three Lights shewn at once, & no false fires, or Rocquets used as part of the Signal, which renders them more simple.

These methods, for Exhibiting the Day, the Fog & the Night Signals, I confess are all borrow'd from the French. But untill we invent something of this kind ourselves, equal or Superior to Them, it is better to adopt theirs than follow a method less perfect.

I am D^{r} S^{r} Your most Obedient Servant R^{D} KEMPENFELT.

August 20th.

P.S. The Flags at the side of the pages, in the Signals from the admiral by Day have marked under them the number of the pages where they stand as superior Flags.

No. 3392—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

WANDSWORTH HILL. *August* 25. 1781.
$\frac{20}{m}$ *p two* PM.

As the Dispatches brought by Roworth are Material I send them to your Majesty without waiting any longer for some letters that are not yet decypher'd. One of them is from S^{r} J. Harris. In the midst of all the Empresses inconsistencys she seems to have one point chiefly in view that of making a separate Peace between Gr. Britain & Holland.

The Business in the shape it has now assumed seems to deserve very mature consideration, but I imagine nothing can be decided with Propriety till the next letters from Vienna arrive, for tho' little real friendship from that quarter is to be expected yet it would I think be impolitic to give the Emperor any just cause of complaint.

The Idea suggested by Prince Potemkin of proposing such Terms of Peace as Holland would with difficulty come into and such as if agreed to would be highly honourable to this country seems no unwise expedient. I presume to throw out my Ideas just as they occur at the first moment, the whole is certainly a Business that will deserve serious consideration. The Nature of the Dutch War is greatly changed by the King of Prussia's accession to the Northern League, and by his Flag covering so large a Number of ships that are nominally Prussian but really Dutch, in a few months the whole Dutch Trade will run in that & in the Austrian channel. I have never asked your Majesty's Commands with respect to the application made by S^{r} R. Keith in his Private Letter by Mr Malin [?] which was laid before yr. Majesty. His ability & zeal certainly deserve every encouragement but I am at a loss to judge to what it is that his wishes point that can come at all within my department.

No. 3393—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

FULLHAM. *Aug. 25th,* 1781.

The enclosed dispatches were recieved by Ld. Sandwich at Lord Dudley's at Teddington about two hours ago, he immediately came to this place to settle with Mr Stephens what

information should be sent to Admiral Darby; for as to reinforcement to make him able to engage the enemy if they are really in these seas it is utterly impracticable.

Lord Sandwich cannot help doubting the fact of the combined fleet being come this way as all accounts seem to agree that they stood towards the Streights of Gibraltar after their sailing from Cadiz the 21st. of last month, tho' the last advices indeed intimate that great part of that fleet was to remain cruizing in the Ocean.

Lord Sandwich is fully persuaded that the ships seen by Lieutenant Cadman were some of our outward bound convoys from Cork.

Lord Sandwich sends the latest advices recieved from the Rotterdam correspondent, as allso Mr Darby's & Mr Stephens' private letters, and an extract of a letter from Mr Fitzherbert.

No. 3394—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of laying before his Majesty a letter he has lately received from Lord Robert Manners, & which he omitted to lay before him in Town. He apprehends it is quite unnecessary to bear testimony to the steady, constant, uniform & zealous part Lord Robert has always maintained in the House of Commons on behalf of government. He has had the honour to mention it to his Majesty on former occasion, Lord North can add that he has never in any instance deviated from the same friendly & honourable line of conduct.

Bushy Park. *Aug.* 27. 1781.

Lord North has just received several India papers, & two letters of intelligence from Mr Wentworth, which he has the honour to inclose. N.

No. 3395—*The King to Lord North.*

Windsor. *Augt. 8th.*, 1781.

$\frac{m}{40}$ *p.* $\frac{h}{9}$ A.M.

Lord Robt. Manners's conduct on all occasions make Him certainly deserving of marks of favour; I should certainly have

conferred a better Government on Him before this time had not the Services during the War always presented some person who must on those Occasions be rewarded; I do not mean by this to inferr that on a Subsequent Occasion I shall not be desirous of remembering Lord Robt. Manners; Lord North may therefore go so far as to write to Him that on laying His letter before Me He had found every favourable disposition that Ld. Robert could wish without saying any thing further that might be construed into a promise, for that is what I studiously avoid as circumstances sometimes put difficulties if any engagement is taken.

No. 3396—*The King to Lord North.*

WINDSOR. *Augt.* 8*th.* 1781.

$\frac{m}{40}$ *p* 9 A.M.

I am sorry to be obliged to open a subject to Ld. North that has long given Me much pain, but I can rather do it on paper than in conversation; it is a subject to which I know He is not quite ignorant. My Eldest Son got last Year into a very improper connection with an Actress and woman of indifferent Character through the *friendly* assistance of Ld. Malden a Multitude of letters past which she has threatened to publish unless He in short bought them of Her; He has made Her very foolish promises which undoubtedly by Her conduct to Him she entirely cancelled; I have thought it right to authorize the getting them from Her and have employed Lieut. Col. Hotham on whose discretion I could depend to manage this business; He has now brought it to a conclusion, and has Her consent to get these letters on Her receiving 5000.£. undoubtedly an enormous sum; but I wish to get my Son out of this shameful scrape; I desire you will therefore see Lieut. Col. Hotham and settle this with Him; I am happy at being able to say that I never was personally engaged in such a transaction which perhaps makes me feel this the stronger.

No. 3397—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North received yesterday the honour of his Majesty's commands to meet Lieutenant Colonel Hotham & settle the

payment of the £5000 stipulated for the recovery of his Royal Highness's letters. He has seen the Lieutenant Colonel this morning, & has given orders for a warrant to be made out for that sum on account of Special Service. This Method appears to Lord North the most convenient as Mr. Hotham will be obliged to account for the disposal of it to his Majesty only. Lord North had heard of this unhappy affair before, & indebted as he is to his Majesty's goodness must feel for every event which gives uneasiness to his Royal Breast. He cannot but admire & applaud his Majesty's Paternal tenderness & wisdom in sacrificing even a large sum to withdraw the Prince's letters from the hands in which they now are.

Bushey Park, *Aug.* 29, 1781.

No. 3398—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing for his Majesty's perusal some Hints for a separate peace between Great Britain and the United Provinces, which he received some days ago from Amsterdam, together with the reasons which occur to him *Pro & Con.* Although the prosecution of this plan in the method suggested in the inclosed papers seems impossible after the last advices from Petersburgh, yet it may be of importance to know the sentiments of some of the leading men at Amsterdam, as well as the terms to which they might possibly have acceded if a separate Treaty could have been carried on with them without a mediation. This knowledge is of more consequence if we should think it necessary to accept the Empress of Russia's mediation for a peace between us and the Dutch.

Lord Stormont, in his letter to Lord North, (which he received last night with the last dispatches from Petersburgh & Vienna) seems to think that it will not be possible to bring on the consideration of the Russian proposal before the Cabinet before further intelligence has been received from Vienna so that we shall hardly be able to come to any decision upon the subject before tomorrow sevennight. In that case Lord North intreats his Majesty's leave to make his annual visit to Banbury & Wroxton. The annual Feast is on Friday, & the Mayor's Election on Monday next; He will certainly return before Thursday but

he will not stir at all, if his absence is likely to be attended with the least inconvenience.

When his Majesty has done with the papers concerning the Dutch proposal Lord North intreats his Majesty to be so good as to return them : He has no copies of them, & he would be glad to communicate them to Lord Stormont & Sir Joseph Yorke.

Bushey Park.
Aug. 29. 1781.

No. 3399.

Minute of Cabinet.

at Lord Sandwich's August 30. 1781.

Present

Ld. Chancellor
Ld. Sandwich
Ld. G. Germain
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty to approve of the Election of John Staples Esqr made by the East India Company.

No. 3400—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Sept*r 1. 1781
$\frac{40}{m}$ *p. two* P.M.

Lord Sandwich will inform Your Majesty of the addition preparing to Admiral Darbys Force. As that designed for Commodore Stewart would not have made Darby equal to an engagement with the combined fleet, there seems to be the strongest objection to the abandoning Mr. Stewarts Expedition on the success of which so much depends Ld Sandwich seems clearly of opinion that Darby must remain in Port till he can have the intended Reinforcement there was therefore nothing for our deliberation when we met this morning, a very small Committee of Your Majestys Confidential Servants. The Intelligence in the

advices is so important that I thought it necessary to transmit it immediately to the Ld Lieut. & that no time might be lost I would not detain the Messenger till the drt. could return from Your Majesty.

Since Parker was left for execution other Persons as I am informed by Justice Addington have been apprehended for the same Robbery, have confessed their Guilt and declared Parkers Innocence under these circumstances application is made for a Respite for Parker till the other Prisoners have had their Trial.

No. 3401—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY *Sept:* 1st 1781
½ *past three* P.M.

There is nothing new relative to the combined fleet, but Lord Sandwich thinks Your Majesty would chuse to see and compare the two most accurate accounts concerning them.

Admiral Darby is ordered to send two frigates on different stations to cruize for the homeward bound fleets and order them north about, and an express is gone to Ireland to order the Stag Frigate that is at Dublin to go on the same service, and the Seaford that is in the Clyde has the same orders : these two ships being behind the enemy run less risque of being intercepted.

The enclosed list of the force at home & its present destination will shew Your Majesty in one view all that can be done in the present emergency, for the expediting of which every necessary order is given. Lord Sandwich is extremely unwilling to break in upon Commodore Stewarts expedition which is of the utmost importance to this country, and it is to be hoped that he will sail on Monday or Teusday next.

A few days will throw more light upon this very delicate business, and when we know the real strength of the enemy, and what reinforcements we can give to Admiral Darby, we must decide whither Mr. Darby shall go out to attack them, but it seems to Lord Sandwich that it would be premature to determine this great point in the present moment.

Your Majesty will find in the box the French letter which you was yesterday interrupted in reading.

No. 3402—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

BLACKHEATH *Sept*: 2^{d} 1781.

Lord Sandwich takes the liberty in answer to the letter with which he was yesterday honoured to suggest to Your Majesty that the sending Commissioners of the Navy to Portsmouth and Plymouth would be only taking them out of their business & could answer no purpose whatever; the only ships in question are the Nonsuch at Portsmouth, and the Hercules & Dublin at Plymouth, and as they are out of the Shipwrights hands (except possibly a few trifling jobs afloat) their equipment depends entirely upon their Captains and the Admiral of the Port, and it is certain that nothing that can be done will be omitted on their parts.

Your Majesty knows the state of things at Sheerness, the ships there are under the immediate eye of the Comptroller of the Navy; Lord Sandwich will see him tomorrow morning, & if he thinks his going down or sending Mr. Hunt will do any good it shall not be omitted.

All the orders that can be given for watching the motions of the enemy are allready executed, the Minerva & Viper Sloop were sent out by Lord Shuldham on the first news of the enemy being near, and he is since directed to make use of the Cerberus & Quebec (who with the convoy for Canada are very judiciously detained at Plymouth) for the same purpose, Admiral Darby has allso a large number of Frigates with him in Torbay which he will of course not suffer to remain idle.

As soon as ever the real strength of the enemy is known, which must from these measures appear in a very short time, Your Majesty will be able to decide that very important question whither Admiral Darby shall proceed to sea before he is reinforced; the only addition he can expect immediately will be the Arrogant & Hercules, and it is to be hoped that the Dublin & Nonsuch will not be far behind them, but as we are certain that the fleet had from 32 to 35 sail, & possibly may have many more Lord Sandwich begs to submit to Your Majesty whither any, even provisional orders about Mr. Darbys sailing, should be given, till we have some more information of the real state of the whole, of which every hour must bring us something very material for our consideration.

No. 3403—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson had the Honour to obey Your Majesty's Commands, and to send last Night the intelligence to Lord Sandwich. About Ten Days ago Mr. Robinson submitted his Opinion to Lord North, that the Parliament should not meet until the 27th of November, which would give sufficient time to vote the Common Supplies before Christmas, and Mr. Robinson at the same time laid before Lord North an arangement of the Issues of Money for carrying on the Services of the present year until that time, taking care to reserve a considerable Sum in hand to answer Bills that may be drawn from America. This State Mr. Robinson begs leave humbly to submit to Your Majesty. Lord North thought this was running near in our Funds, but he seemed so much to acquiesce in it, on repeated conversations, that Mr. Robinson took it for granted to be fixed, and has ever since acted accordingly. Mr. Robinson will however this Morning send a Messenger to Lord North to request that he will apprize Your Majesty of his Sentiments.

Syon Hill
3*d. Sept.* 1781
40/*m.p.* 6° A.M.

No. 3404—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *Sept:* 4*th* 1781.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform Your Majesty, that the Comptroller of the Navy confirms the opinion he presumed to give to Your Majesty that the attendance of a Commissioner either at Portsmouth or Plymouth could not be of the least service ; at Sheerness possibly some good may be done by a spur of that kind, Mr. Hunt is therefore gone there to see whither his presence can in any degree forward the business in hand.

Your Majesty may be assured that every human exertion shall be used towards the immediate reinforcement of Mr. Darbys fleet, but Lord Sandwich begs most humbly to submit to Your Majesty, that he hopes the Cabinet will recieve your Special Commands to meet and advise Your Majesty what orders shall be given to Admiral Darby ; as this is a matter of too much magnitude to be decided by any single person.

Your Majesty will find herewith the latest letters received from Commodore Stewart, by which it will appear that the greatest part of his Squadron will be sailed on Thursday, unless they are delayed for want of their guns: he is to take the Fortitude with him, & to leave the Sceptre to join Admiral Darby. As the Victory is Admiral Parkers ship and has all his officers on board, Lord Sandwich thought he would have had great reason to complain if he had not been asked whither he chose to go out second in Command, which however he declines; but appears to be in perfect good humour & sensible of the attention that has been shewn him.

It seems adviseable that Admiral Kempenfelt should at all events go out with this fleet, Lord Sandwich has therefore, after consulting the Comptroller who answers for Mr. Kempenfelts entire acquiescence, written to Mr. Darby to know whither he wishes he should serve in his former capacity, or hoist his flag as junior Rear Admiral on one of the ships of the fleet.

The letters received this morning from Admiral Darby are sent herewith, by which it will appear that nothing proper to be done has been omitted on his part; and every measure is taking at this office to cover the sea with small vessels from all parts to apprize the homeward bound convoys of their danger.

Your Majesty will find in the box the intelligence received from Captain Taylor, which Lord Stormont, who is now here, is dispatching by a Messenger to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland.

Lord Sandwich allso encloses a letter he has received from L^{d} North; the postcript relates to a flying report that L^{d} Macartney has been taken by the French, & carried into the Cape of Good Hope.

Your Majesty will certainly have observed by the account from Captain Caldwell, which is the most authentick information of the strength of the enemy, that they were from 44 to 47 sail of the Line, & that therefore no detachment had then been made.

No. 3405—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Sept^{r}* 6. 1781.

The Papers read at the Meeting of this Morning the Minute, and the Letters written agreeable to that Minute are now sub-

mitted to Your Majesty and if they meet with Your Majesty's approbation I propose dispatching a Messenger to S[r] J. Harris immediately and shall defer giving M. Simolin His answer for some Days. My Private Letter to S[r] James Harris contains my sentiments upon this very disagreeable Business I purposely read it at the Meeting that it might be fully understood that if Russia should endeavour to press disadvantageous Terms, they cannot be consented to, be the consequence what it may. In stating to Your Majesty the opinion of the meeting I think it right to lay before Your Majesty the Chancellors Letter as his sentiments do not upon this occasion coincide with those which have been adopted.

No. 3406.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

at Ld. Hillsborough's office, Septr. 6. 1781.

Present

Ld. Sandwich
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. G. Germain
Ld. North
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that the sole mediation of Russia for a separate Peace with Holland should be accepted & that Sir James Harris should be instructed to communicate to the Empress in that manner which he thinks most proper and under the Seal of Secrecy a Paper containing the only Terms upon which his Majesty can make a separate Peace with the Republic.

This Paper of Terms was read & with some alterations approved.

An answer to M. Simolins Reponse verbale was read and approved.

An answer to this communication of the Convention between Russia & Prussia was also read & approved.

No. 3407.

Minute of Cabinet.

at Ld. G. Germain's Septr. 6. 1781

Present

Ld. Sandwich
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. G. Germain
Ld. North
Ld. Amherst
Ld. Stormont.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that under all the circumstances it is expedient that Vice Admiral Darby be directed to put to Sea immediately with such Force as He may have when these orders arrive & without waiting for any further Reinforcement That he be ordered to go and seek the enemy as his copper Bottom ships will give Him the opportunity of avoiding an engagement unless detachment or separation enables Him to attack the Enemy with Probability of success.

That he is to consider the Protection of the Homeward bound convoys and the prevention of a Descent upon Ireland as His Principal objects.

No. 3408—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending to His Majesty Lord George Gordon's letter which he received yesterday & submits to his Majesty whether it will not be proper to answer it according to the inclosed. If his Majesty sees no objection to sending the inclosed answer, He will be so good as to return it to Mr. Robinson, who will send it to Lord George.

Lord North having attended at the two very important Councils which were held yesterday, & finding that his presence is no longer immediately necessary in Town has set out upon his return to Oxfordshire, & shall continue there & in the neighbourhood for a few days with his Majesty's permission. He may be brought to Town at a day's notice at the farthest.

Lord North has the honour of inclosing a Warrant for his Majesty's signature, if approved, & three monthly accounts of the produce of the Civil List Revenues.

Sion Hill. *Friday Septr.* 5. 1781.

No. 3409—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Septr.* 8, 1781.

Lord George Gordons Letters to Ld. North and Lord Southampton have raised such General Indignation and are of so very extraordinary a nature that I have thought it an essential part of my Duty to write to your Majestys Attorney & Solicitor General for their opinion upon them, and have desired an immediate answer because in every view of the subject it seems desirable to be armed with their opinion, whatever Resolution it may afterwards be thought proper to take. I hope Your Majesty will not disapprove a step which does not appear liable to any objection as Your Majestys Secretaries of State have a Right to apply to your Law Servants upon all such occasions and I must own that this business does appear to me in a very serious light and deserving the utmost attention.

No. 3410.

Minute of Cabinet.

at Ld. Sandwich's Septr. 10. 1781

Present

Ld. Sandwich
Ld. Hillsborough
Ld. Stormont

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that after having in the absence of the Rest of His Confidential Servants taken into consideration the consequences of His Majestys admitting Ld. George Gordon to appear in his Presence to present a Book announced by such a Letter as that of Ld. George to Ld. North

We are humbly of opinion that He ought not to be permitted to present it, as the receiving a Book so described and announced would seem to entitle every Person whatever to present any Book however improper. We submit to His Majty that in case Ld George Gordon should come to Court on Wednesday next or any following day the Lord in Waiting should be commanded to say to Him *before the Lord* these words; His Majesty having been made acquainted with your Letter to Lord North announcing your Intention to deliver a Book thinks it highly improper to admit you into His Presence to deliver any Book announced by such a Letter, and has commanded me to signify His pleasure that you do not presume to attempt it.

If this opinion does not meet His Majesty's immediate approbation it is humbly submitted that as the Business is of the greatest Importance Time should be given to take the Sentiments of the Rest of His Majesty's Confidential Servants and that Wednesdays Levee should be postponed to prevent Ld George taking that opportunity.

No. 3411—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's *Septr.* 10. 1781

It made me happy to find that Your Majesty approved of my writing to the Attorney & Sollicitor General for their opinion upon Ld George Gordons Letters to Ld North & Ld Southampton. No answer has yet been received, but there is a point which seems of great consequence and which requires immediate decision.

The Point is whether Ld George Gordon ought to be admitted into Your Majestys Presence to present a Book so announced.

I presume to lay before Your Majesty my Sentiments upon this very important subject.

It strikes me that the receiving a Book so announced is of the most dangerous consequence If this is not refused none ever can, the receiving it gives a sanction to associations and teaches Mankind to think that the King is bound to receive whatever is brought to Him how exceptionable soever. The consequence will be that Faction will immediately adopt this mode of Insult as the most daring and most offensive and best calculated for the purposes of sedition, and the different associations will have books

written containing all their extravagant Doctrines and have them presented to Your Majesty.

The receiving this book will also prevent the treating the Letter to Lord North as it may deserve, it will then be said can this Letter be so criminal when the King after full deliberation and previous Notice gives Leave to present and actually receives Ld George Gordon and the Book announced by this very Letter this must be either as thinking it not indecent, or tho' indecent that His Majty is bound to receive Him and the Book as of Right.

On the other Hand the taking it up with Spirit may be a lucky opportunity to retrieve the authority of Govt. as the sense of Mankind is strongly against Ld G. Gordon & particularly against this Letter to Ld North. It may give an additional check to that dangerous Spirit of association against whch the People in General and even the City of London have happily taken an alarm.

Whether Ld G. Gordon ought seriously to be prosecuted, there will be time sufficient to deliberate, because during the present vacation nothing can be done. It is my clear opinion that he ought not to be taken up by warrant and put upon giving Bail. The thing has hung too long for such a Measure, there is no danger of his running away and if he did it wd be so much the better. His present situation of a candidate for the City of London is a further argument against apprehending Him but supposing it possible that His Letter to Ld North shd not be criminal in the eye of the Law any otherwise than as an Impertinence and Indecency to the crown, That is a sufficient Reason for your Majty to refuse a Book announced by such a Letter & the Nature of the thing makes so strong a case that scarce a word can be said on the other side ; What is it that is proposed ? to present a printed & published Historical Collection of Proceedings against Popery in *Scotland* when there has been no step taken to repeal any of the Laws against Papists in that part of the Kingdom and if by a side wind it is to be applied to the Law which passed with regard to England it is a collection of Remonstrances to the King arraigning the Act of the whole Legislature and that too after an actual Rebellion to force the Legislature to repeal it.

Tho no Precedents seem wanting in a case of this nature yet I will mention on a separate Paper one that has occurred to me.

I have taken the Liberty of laying before your Majesty perhaps with too much detail my poor sentiments upon this subject I had not occasion to enter very fully into them at the Meeting I called as the opinion of the only two Ministers in Town coincides so entirely with mine. A copy of the Minute is here submitted to Your Majesty We were all sorry to be obliged to deliberate upon a Point of this Importance in the absence of Lord North, but I will immediately dispatch a Messenger to Him with a copy of the Minute.

In the last Reign the University of Oxford came up with an adress which the friends of Govt had procured and thought it a Point carried, several of them came up with it particularly Dr Fanshaw.

There was an expression in the adress extenuating the Case of Dr Parnell their late Vice chancellor who was then under Prosecution by an Information in the Kings Bench. The Ministers thought this passage indecent & offensive tho' it certainly was not so Meant, & a message was sent to the Vice chancellor & others who came with the adress that the King wd not receive it, & they returned to the university without presenting it.

No. 3412—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

Wandsworth Hill *Tuesday Night Septr* 11. 1781.

Lord North's letter arrived too late to be sent to Your Majesty before tomorrow Morning The Messenger is ordered to be at Windsor by Seven o'clock.

Your Majesty will see that Lord North thinks that if this note to Ld George Gordon has been sent, the Measure proposed becomes impossible I deem it my duty to say that I cannot subscribe to this opinion. this Note may make some Variation necessary as to the Mode of refusing the Book, but it does seem to me most important that a Book so announced should not be received by Your Majesty, and I am bold to say that the more fully the Matter is considered the stronger and more forcible the objections to receiving it will appear. having already troubled Your Majesty with my Sentiments so much as large, I will not

presume to say any thing further except that I am persuaded that Lord North has not yet considered the subject in its full extent, and is not aware of the Mischief that certainly may and I doubt must follow the establishing a precedent so dangerous, and that too upon a point where so [far] from there being any Rights, there is not so much as the shadow of a claim.

I am exceedingly sorry that I did not understand Your Majesty's Intention to be to ask Ld Hillsboroughs opinion and mine if Lord North's answer ought to be stopt Had I conceived that to be the case I should have spoke without the least hesitation or reserve, but not understanding that Question to be put by Your Majesty I would not from delicacy and a proper attention to Ld North go further than to say that I did not approve the answer.

The matter now under consideration may to a degree be affected by this Note, but should not be decided by it if the thing is of that magnitude that it appears to me. If Your Majesty thinks proper that the deliberation should be resumed upon Lord Norths Return to Town I will then give my sentiments fully upon it, and if I am not much mistaken shall be able to shew that I rest my unalterable opinion upon firm and solid ground. I think it very unfortunate that in considering a point of this Nature Your Majesty's confidential Servants cannot be assisted by the Chancellor & Ld President but there will not I am afraid be Time to wait for their assistance.

No. 3413—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

Admiralty *Sept*: 11*th* 1781.

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to Your Majesty several interesting letters upon different subjects, and among them a private letter from Sir Samuel Hood to Mr Stephens containing much matter with regard to Sir George Rodneys late conduct, as well his own, which latter Lord Sandwich is inclined to think Your Majesty will not disapprove.

It is very extraordinary that no intelligence has been received of the combined fleet since Captain Caldwells, from whence it cannot be doubted that they have left their station at the chops

of the channel: a little time must inform us where they are gone to: the account given in Admiral Darbys letter of a Flemish Ship having seen them, as no day is mentioned when he did see them, nor any particulars, is too vague to deserve any attention.

Your Majesty will perceive by the enclosed letter from Commissioner Ourry, what great expedition has been used in the equipment of the Anson.

If Your Majesty should be in town tomorrow Lord Sandwich is fearfull he shall not be able to attend to receive Your commands, not having yet been able to shake off the remains of a fever that has hung upon him ever since he last had the honour of paying his duty to Your Majesty.

No. 3414—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Septr* 12. 1781.

The Expedient that occurred to Your Majesty seems the best that could have been thought of to take the Business out of the Hand of Lord North. I have not had an opportunity of obeying Your Majestys commands. I went to St. James's a few Minutes after twelve and staid till after one, But the Lord in waiting being I imagine apprized that there was to be no Levee did not come, there was nobody at all at St James's except the Pages in waiting.

I understood Your Majestys Intention to be that I should seem to take an *accidental* opportunity of making the suggestion to the Lord in waiting I have not thought it within that Intention either to call upon Him or write to Him. If it is Your Majestys Pleasure that He should speak to Ld G. Gordon in the Manner proposed, which appears to me exceedingly proper, it will be time enough tomorrow for Him to receive Directions in whatever Manner it may be thought best to convey them.

If Lord North comes to Town the Discussion of this untoward but in my poor Judgment most important Business will of course be brought on at the Meeting tomorrow; is it Your Majesty's Pleasure that there should be any further deliberation upon it in the absence of Lord North.

No. 3415—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

I obeyed Your Majestys commands and acquainted the Meeting with all that had passed both with Your Majesty and Lord North. The Matter was deliberately considered but without the least difference of opinion. The inclosed Minute contains the Result and is so explicit as to leave me Nothing to add upon the Subject.

St James's *Septr* 13. 1781
40 *m p. Nine* P.M.

Enclosure.

Minute of Cabinet.

at Lord Hillsborough's Septr 13 1781.

Present

Ld Sandwich
Ld Hillsborough
Ld G. Germain
Ld Amherst
Ld Stormont

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty as the opinion of this meeting that a Book announced by such a letter as that of Lord George Gordon to Ld North, should Not be received by His Majesty.

Agreed that it be also submitted to His Majesty that in case Lord George Gordon should come to the Levee tomorrow or any following Day, the Lord in waiting should be directed to say to Him as from Himself before the Levee begins, that the Lord in waiting cannot introduce any Person to present a Book to His Majesty without having previously received His Majesty's Permission.

That in case this Permission should be applied for, the Lord in waiting should be commanded to say, That His Majesty having been made acquainted with Lord George Gordons letter to Lord North announcing His Intention to deliver a Book thinks it highly improper to admit Lord George Gordon into His Presence to deliver any Book announced by such a Letter.

No. 3416—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Septr* 14 1781
30 *m. p. Eleven* A.M.

I am happy to find that the Minute of Yesterday meets with Your Majesty's approbation.

I am informed that Ld George Gordon certainly means to be at the Levee today to present the Book. If after what the Lord in waiting will say to Him before the Levee begins He should come into the Levee Room *with the Book*, Your Majesty will probably think it necessary that the Lord in Waiting or rather the Lord Chamberlain if He is at Court should direct Ld George Gordon to withdraw for such Irregularity.

No. 3417—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing his Majesty that while he was in Warwickshire he received from Lord Chesterfield a most pressing letter desiring him to apply to his Majesty that Mr. Lovett may be created a Baronet before a journey which he is to take into Ireland towards the end of next month: Lord Chesterfield applied some time ago to obtain a Baronetage for Mr. Lovett whom he represents to be a gentleman of considerable fortune both in Buckinghamshire & Ireland; he adds that Mr. Lovett will, probably, soon be a Member of the British House of Commons, & that he will answer for his attachment to the cause of Government.

Bushy Park: *Sept*: 17. 1781.

No. 3418—*The King to Lord North.*

Windsor *Sept. 17th.* 1781.
20 *m. p.* 7. P.M.

If Lord North has no engagement to lay before Me any other applications for the Creation of a Baronet which may hamper Him if Mr. Lovett obtains his request, I cannot object to this; and Lord North will give the necessary notice that the Warrant and Patent be prepared for this Creation.

No. 3419.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

at Lord Stormont's Septr 20 1781.

Present

Ld Sandwich
Ld Hillsborough
Ld G. Germain
Ld North
Ld Amherst
Ld Stormont

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that Remonstrances be made to the Court of Sweden against the Behaviour of the Swedish Captn of a Man of War now at Dungeness who refuses to let the Ships under His Convoy produce their Papers in direct Violation of the 12th article of our Treaty with Sweden.

No. 3420—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST JAMES'S 30 *m. p. three* P.M.
[? *September*, 1781.]

I laid before the Cabinet the Explanatory article that is now submitted to Your Majesty. It would I think if accepted prevent all further Discussion between the two Courts but I am afraid it asks more than Denmark will be disposed to grant. By proposing the article as Explanatory the Doubt remains with regard to the Interpretation of the Treaty and that Doubt with respect to Provisions Denmark is particularly anxious to remove.

No. 3421—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST JAMES'S *Septr* 22 1781.
4 *o'clock* P.M.

I was determined not to trouble Your Majesty with Business upon this day and therefore kept back the Flanders Mail, but Mr.

Fitzherberts letter just received by the inland Post has made me alter my Resolution.

Altho the combined fleet have made a most disgraceful campaign yet I am sorry that they are not yet back without Admiral Darbys meeting them.

It struck me upon reading Mr. Fitzherberts letter that this would be the Moment to succour Minorca by calling back five or six of the swiftest ships in Admiral Darbys fleet. I have in a Note to Ld D Sandwich mentioned this as a crude Idea that has occured to me. The success of the attempt must in a great measure depend upon extreme promptitude and absolute secrecy.

No. 3422.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

at Ld Amherst's Septr 27. 1781.

Present

Ld Sandwich
Ld Hillsborough
Ld G Germain
Ld North
Ld Amherst
Ld Stormont

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that as the combined Fleets of France & Spain are gone back to Brest and Cadiz, as the Leward Island Fleet is arrived safe in Ireland and that from Jamaica is not expected for a considerable Time, it is expedient under all these Circumstances that Vice Admiral Darby should be ordered into Port to refit for such further Services as may be required.

Agreed that it be also submitted to His Majesty that *Seven* Ships of the line and two frigates be sent with all convenient speed and all possible secrecy to the Relief of Minorca and that at least seven hundred Men of an established Corps be put on Board these Ships to strengthen the garrison of St Philips.

No. 3423—*Lord Lothian to the King.*

WILTON HOUSE. 27*th Sept* 1781.

SIRE—I have ventured upon this method of addressing your Majesty humbly intreating leave of absence from my duty at St. James's for some short time till my child is recovered from a severe illness with which he has been attacked since I have been at Wilton, Nothing but an event of this sort should have induced me to have been thus presuming upon your Majestys time particularly after the great indulgencies I have so often experienced before.

Sire, Your Majesty's Most dutiful & most devoted Servant & subject. LOTHIAN.

No. 3424—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

ST JAMES *Octr.* 8. 1781.
30 *m. p. one* P.M.

As Monsieur de Guichen is considered as one of the best Naval Officers in the french Service His Resignation of which I have received information through a secret channel seems an event of some importance. He resigned because several Memorials he had presented complaining of mismanagement and Neglect in the Equipment of the fleet had not been attended to. M. de Castries is very uneasy in his situation and will not remain in it long. M. de Sartines is talked of to succeed Him and it is said that M. de Maurepas is reconciled to Him and wishes to bring him back, but this Intelligence seems very doubtful & is indeed represented to me as such. M. de Guichens Resignation I thought of consequence enough to trouble Your Majesty with the earliest acct of it.

No. 3425—*The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland to the Earl of Hillsborough.*

Private. DUBLIN CASTLE 9*th October* 1781.

MY DEAR LORD—I have lately received Information that the Property of the Crown in the Lands belonging to the Government

of Charlemont in this Kingdom, is in danger of being injured for want of Leases being Signed by the Governor of the Fort, and there is reason to believe Incroachments have been made & other Improprieties committed.

Upon Enquiry I find that Lieut. General Sir Guy Carleton was appointed Governour of Charlemont on the 27th of February 1770, but that he has never applied for the Salary annexed to the Office, nor appointed any Person to pay the necessary attention to the Lands belonging to it—And as the Property of the Crown in these Lands may suffer by this neglect, I have thought it right to mention the matter in the private manner to your Lordship that such Steps may be taken as may be judged proper.

I have the honor to be with great Truth & Respect, My dear Lord, Your Lordship's most obedient humble Servant

CARLISLE

No. 3426—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

SALT HILL *Octo* 14*th* 1781.
8 *o'clock* A.M.

About an hour and a half ago a Messenger arrived here from Mr. Stephens with the enclosed dispatches containing an unpleasant account of an action between the English & French fleets in America before the arrival of Admiral Digby.

Your Majesty will allso find in the box an account of Commodore Johnsons progress ; who finding the Enemy prepared to receive him at the Cape of Good Hope made no attempt there, but dispatched the force intended for India to its proper destination. he has however been so fortunate as to capture five Dutch India men of great value, & to burn a sixth.

Lord Sandwich begs Your Majesty would have the goodness to send the Messenger away to London as soon as your Majesty has perused the dispatches, as Lord Sandwich is setting out immediately for Town to meet Mr. Stephens, in order to make the proper extracts from these papers for publication. & for the information of Your Majesty's confidential Servants.

No. 3427.

Minute of Cabinet.

at Ld Stormont's Office Octr. 20 1781

Present

Ld Hillsborough
Ld North
Ld Amherst
Ld Stormont

Intelligence having been received that a considerable armament is preparing at Brest with a large Train of artillery five Regiments of Infantry and at least Seven Ships of the Line Some accounts make them Ten under the Command of M. de Vaudreuil late Governor of St Domingo who will be ready to sail the Middle of next Month. It is the Opinion of this Meeting that it would be of the greatest Consequence to intercept or even to retard this Squadron which is probably destined against Jamaica and that Ld Sandwich be desired to report to the next Meeting to be held at Ld Stormonts Office on Monday next at Twelve o'clock His Lordship's opinion as to the most effectual Method of carrying this service into Execution Agreed that it is highly expedient that the earliest Intelligence be sent to the Governor of Jamaica of the supposed Design of the Enemy and that a swift sailing vessel be prepared for that Purpose.

No. 3428—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Octr.* 22^{d} 1781
25 *m. past Two* P.M.

I now lay before Your Majesty the Minutes of the two last Meetings, by some Mistake at the Admiralty Ld Sandwich did not receive the Summons time enough to attend the Meeting of Saturday. as it is thought highly expedient that the vessel to be dispatched to the Leward Islands and Jamaica should sail as soon as possible, I shall immediately send a messenger to Ld George Germain. He Ld Hillsborough & Ld Amherst left their opinions with me, which were all for an Endeavour to intercept

the French convoy, to be made in that Manner wch Ld Sandwich shd judge most advisable. When we came to consider the business there seemed to be no choice as to the Mode Vice Admiral Darby not having water enough to enable Him to remain at sea.

No. 3429.

Minute of Cabinet.

at Ld. Stormont's Office. Octr. 22nd, 1781.

Present

Ld. Sandwich
Ld. North
Ld. Stormont.

Agreed that it be submitted to his Majesty that fresh orders be sent to Admiral Darby to return into Port as soon as possible in order to revictual his fleet with all expedition, that a Detachment may be made from it before the sailing of the French Convoy from Brest in hopes of intercepting that Convoy.

Agreed that it be also submitted to his Majesty that a swift sailing vessel be sent immediately with Dispatches from the Secretary of State for the American Department and from the Admiralty for the Leward Islands and Jamaica, to give notice of the armament preparing at Brest and the probability of its being intended against Jamaica, to remind the Commander in Chief in the Leward Island Station that the Protection of the Island of Jamaica is intrusted to him equally with that of the Islands immediately under his Command and to inform him that a Reinforcement of at least eight ships of the Line will be sent Him from hence with all possible expedition.

No. 3430—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St James's *Octr. 23rd.* 1781
15 *m. p. one* P.M.

The Mail was ready to be sent to Your Majesty on Saturday and it was intended that the same Messenger should carry the Minute of the Meeting, but as we waited in Expectation of Ld

Sandwich The Minute was not drawn till it was too late to send to Your Majesty. and the Contents of the Mail not being very material I would not venture to trouble Your Majesty with it on Sunday. But I shall take care for the future that the Mail be sent to Your Majesty as soon as the Letters are deciphered without waiting for any other business whatever.

No. 3431—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of inclosing to his Majesty a letter from Lord Ligonier. He has received another from Lord Rochford, stating the poor circumstances in which he has been left by his uncle, & desiring Lord North to lay his situation before his Majesty, which he thinks he cannot do better than by communicating the letter itself.

The Regius Professor of Civil Law in the University of Cambridge having been vacated by the resignation of the Bishop of Gloucester whose letter is inclosed, Lord North has informed himself of the properest person in that University to succeed him, & he finds that there is but one candidate for the Professorship, D^{r} Joseph Jowett of Trinity Hall: He learns from the Arch Bishop of Canterbury, That the nomination of that Gentleman would be much approved at the University.

Mr. Francis, lately arrived from Bengal, proposes to pay his duty at the Levee to-morrow; There have been some stories respecting his private conduct, much exaggerated by Mr. Hastings, Mr. Barwell & their friends, which have been reported to his disadvantage, but Lord North really thinks he has merit with the Public for his able & resolute support of Sir John Clavering who undoubtedly endeavour'd to destroy that corrupt system prevailing in India to which Mr. Hastings has to speak in the softest terms, given too much support. Mr. Francis can be of great service by the information he can give, & he has it likewise in his power to do considerable mischief, but he seems very well disposed, & willing to be directed in a proper & useful course. Lord North thought it right to apprize his Majesty of his intending to be at the Levee tomorrow, & to submit to his Majesty whether, without particularly distinguishing him which would be improper, it would not be right to receive him with

that degree of notice, which would naturally be bestow'd upon any other person coming from a distant & important station after seven years service.

Lord North has the honour of accompanying this note with a letter of intelligence from Paris. The retreat of Mr. D—— to Ghent seem to be a proof of his sincerity, which Lord North would certainly have suspected, if he had staid in France.

Bushey Park. *Oct*: 23. 1781.

No. 3432—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 383.

Windsor. *Oct.* 23*rd*, 1781.

$\frac{m}{42}$ *pt.* 6. P.M.

Upon the present vacancy by the death of Lord Hawke I certainly mean to confer the Order of the Bath on Lord Ligonier which Lord North may acquaint him with; I have not as yet received the Ensigns of the Order from the Representatives of that Lord, and the absence of a Knight of that Order will make it impossible for Me as yet to mention the time when I can with propriety invest Lord Ligonier.

Lord Rochford's situation is truly pitiable, He has drawn it up not ill, He certainly ought to have a Pension till otherwise provided for; Lord North must examine to what extent it has been usual to go, as far as my memory serves Me Earls have generally had from 600 to 800.

I desire Lord North will direct the Instrument to be prepared appointing Dr. Joseph Jowett of Trinity Hall Regius Professor of Civil Law; but I expect the Gentleman is to engage to read Lectures, and not to turn this which was founded for the Improvement of the young Gentlemen at Cambridge in to a sinecure which has of late rather disgraced those Appointments.

Ld. North's ideas on Mr. Francis seem very candid and are so consonant to my opinion that I shall exactly measure my reception of him tomorrow by that scale.

I quite agree that the retreat of Mr. D—— to Ghent shews his conduct is sincere.

No. 3433.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

at Ld. Hillsborough's. Octr. 25. 1781.

Present

The Whole Cabinet except Ld. President and Ld. Privy Seal.

Agreed that it be submitted to his Majesty that it would be expedient to send to Jamaica Dalrymple's Corps together with such Recruits as can be collected belonging to the Regiments in that Island supposed to consist in all of about 800 Men, and that orders should be sent to the Admiralty accordingly. Agreed that it be also submitted that the Proposal mentioned in General Fawcett's letter to Ld. Stormont of this date should be adopted provided always that care be taken in the first place to secure the Recruits the different German Princes are obliged to furnish.

No. 3434—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

ARLINGTON STREET *Oct: 27th.* 1781.

SIR—Your Majesty will probably be surprised at my presuming to trouble Your Majesty with a letter on such a subject, & I fear that Your Majesty's graciousness to me may have made me too bold; but having just heard that Lord Le Despencer is at the point of death, & knowing that Lord Aylesford has made application to Your Majesty to succeed to his Office, I can not avoid venturing to lay myself at Your Majesty's feet, that I may add my request to his. I shall not trespass farther on Your Majesty's time than to express how happy I should be if Lord Aylesford should be so fortunate as to succeed, and to assure Your Majesty that he does not know that I have been so bold as to trouble Your Majesty in his behalf.

I am, Sir, Your Majesty's most Loyal & most dutiful Subject.

WEYMOUTH.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3435—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 385.

WINDSOR. *Oct. 29th*, 1781.

$\frac{m}{35}$ *pt.* 3. P.M.

On returning from hunting I have found Lord North's letter accompanying one from Lord Chesterfield on the Subject of the Lieutenancy of the County of Berks, likely to be vacant within a few days by the death of Lord le Despencer; undoubtedly Lord Chesterfield's political conduct deserves a preference to that of Lord Temple, and I certainly will never again appoint to one of those Offices any one whose sentiments are not cordial with Government; I shall therefore certainly decide in favour of Ld. Chesterfield; perhaps less cordially from private reasons than I should have done some months ago.

No. 3436—*The King to Lord Weymouth.*

WINDSOR. *Oct. 28th*, 1781.

LORD WEYMOUTH—The last Evening I received Your letter in favour of Lord Aylesford, on the approaching vacancy in the Post Office by Ld. Le Despencer being on the point of death; which gave me pleasure as it convinced Me that from a knowledge of the regard I have for You, you felt that this Application would increase the good inclination I have towards Lord Aylesford who insinuated his wish for that Office some months past; when it becomes vacant if the competition is only whose appointment will give me most pleasure I am not aware of any one more agreable to Me than Him now he is going to ally himself in so suitable a manner; but you know this Country too well not to feel that I must weigh on these occasions not only my inclination but what may be of most advantage to my Public Affairs, therefore till I see what Applications have been made I cannot say more than that I shall ever have a kind inclination through life to Lord Aylesford whilst He conducts himself to meet with Your Approbation.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3437—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 385.

WINDSOR. *Oct. 29th*, 1781.
$\frac{m}{4}$ *pt.* 7. P.M.

The answer I wrote to Ld. North this afternoon on the application of Ld. Chesterfield makes it necessary to say but little on the Applićation from Ld. Temple, indeed his letter gives no grounds for changing my opinion. Ld. North's answer should be couched in civil terms and acquainting him that Ld. Chesterfield had long applied and had been appointed prior to his application. I suppose Ld. North will be much pressed for the vacant Postmaster; Lord Aylsford has many months applied to Me I have answered that I shall ever wish to assist Him but that I must see what applications are made and what is most suitable to my service not alone be swayed by personal good inclination.

No. 3438.

MINUTE OF CABINET

[In the handwriting of Lord Stormont.]

at Lord Stormont's, Nov. 1, 1781

Present

The whole Cabinet except Lord Privy Seal and Lord G. Germain.

A letter from General Murray dated the 4th of October being read in which he states that the proper times for sending succours to Minorca are the months of January and February, and that they then may be sent under a small Naval protection, as the enemy's fleets cannot lie off the harbour, nor keep those seas.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that a Reinforcement of one thousand men be immediately prepared for the Relief of Minorca and Transports be ordered for their conveyance, and that there also be sent a proper supply of provisions.

No. 3439—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne III. 386.

WINDSOR, *Nov. 3rd*, 1781
m. 54 *pt.* 11 P.M.

Lord North will be naturally curious to know what news has been brought this day by Lieut Col. Conway; I have within this half hour seen him and as far as I have been able as yet to collect from him, that having had Sir Henry Clinton's leave to come to England when the campaign in Virginia was supposed to be at an end, and being better able from having later left that Province than anyone at New York to state the situation of Lord Cornwallis, Sir Henry had judged it right still to send him with his Dispatches; his opinion seems to be that Lord Cornwallis will certainly leave the Chesapeak and return to Charles Town after having beat La Fayette, and that both these are likely events, and that before he sailed a report of this had arrived from Philadelphia; on the whole he supposes we shall in very few days hear from Lord Cornwallis, and he trusts Sir Henry Clinton will soon have somewhat decisive to communicate: this I own, gives me satisfaction, with such excellent troops if such an event can be effected I think success must ensue; I feel the justness of our cause; I put the greatest confidence in valour of both Navy and Army and above all in the Assistance of Divine Providence: the moment is certainly anxious; the dye is now cast whether this shall be a Great Empire or the least dignified of the European States; the object is certainly worth struggling for and I trust the Nation is equally determined with myself to meet the conclusion with firmness; if this Country will persist, I think an honourable termination cannot fail, for truth is ever too strong for such a conduct as France has held, and if we have any material success she will become sick of the part she has acted; duplicity can never withstand any disasters, but those who act on other motives ought ever to support any misfortune from the consciousness of the rectitude of intentions.

No. 3440.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Copy.

at Lord Amherst's, Nov. 8, 1781.

Present

The whole Cabinet except Lord Privy Seal.

Agreed that orders be sent forthwith for the embarkation of 800 men intended for the reinforcement of Jamaica, and which are to be embarked on board the West India Merchantmen that are to sail with the first Convoy.

Intelligence having been received that a considerable body of land forces is going from France to the East Indies, agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that under these circumstances it would not be expedient to withdraw any part of the Force that was intended for India, either Naval or Military.

No. 3441—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North was prevented by an indisposition from paying his duty yesterday at St. James's, and taking His Majesty's pleasure upon the request of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland that Mr. Flood might be removed from his office of Vice-Treasurer of Ireland and Lord Shannon appointed in his room, he therefore has the honour of sending a Warrant for the appointment of Lord Shannon to be signed by His Majesty, if approved. He is encouraged to take this liberty by Lord Hillsborough, who mentioned the Lord Lieutenant's proposition to His Majesty, and has informed Lord North that it met with His Majesty's approbation.

DOWNING STREET, *Novr.* 10, 1781.

No. 3442—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 388.

WINDSOR, *Nov.* 10, 1781
m. 15 *pt.* 6 P.M.

I am sorry to find Lord North was confined yesterday with a complaint in his Bowels ; I should hope it is now quite removed. Lord Hillsborough mentioned yesterday the proposal of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland that Mr Flood should lose the Office of Vice Treasurer of Ireland and be succeeded by Lord Shannon, to which I could not have the smallest objection ; the private character of the former must make me very ready to superceed him ; I directed Lord Hillsborough to throw ought to the Lord Lieutenant whether it might not be proper to remove him also from a Seat at the Irish Council Board.

No. 3443—*Lord North to the King.*

11 *Novr.* 1871

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty that the Wardenship of the College at Manchester is become vacant by the death of Dr Peploe, and that he has received several applications from Sir Thomas Egerton earnestly recommending the Revd. Mr. Ashton as his successor. Nobody appears so well entitled to recommend to this benefice as Sir Thomas Egerton. The gentleman he patronized is, as Lord North has been informed, a relation of Lady Egerton and Sir Thomas mentions him to be, in point of character and abilities very well qualified for the employment. It is a very important station, the Warden of the College being at the head of the Episcopal Clergy at Manchester, and having always had a great weight in that opulent and populous town. The value of the preferment is about £500 a year.

BUSHY PARK, *Novr.* 11, 1781.

Lord North has the honour to add a letter he has just received from Lord Temple and a Warrant for His Royal Signature, if approved.

No. 3444—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 389.

WINDSOR, *Nov.* 11*th*, 1781
m. 50 *pt.* 6 P.M.

Lord North is very right in supposing I should think Sir Thomas Egerton the proper person to recommend to the Wardenship of Manchester College, vacated by the death of Dr. Peploe. He will therefore direct the proper instrument to be prepared, appointing the Rev. Mr. Ashton to this preferment; besides Sir Thomas Egerton's zealous attachment to my Government, I know the goodness of his private character, and that he would not recommend a Clergyman whose moral character could be in the least suspicious.

Lord Temple's letter is not couched with that temper which could incline a consideration of his request.

No. 3445—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

13 *Nov.* 1781

I lose no time in transmitting to Your Majesty the enclosed papers which Mons^{r} de Belgioso has this moment delivered to me. He had orders to accompany this communication with verbal assurances of the earnest desire of the two Mediating Courts to accomplish the great work of Peace, and to press the naming Plenipotentiaries to open the Congress without previously agreeing upon any preliminaries or conditions whatever, since none could be found agreeable to the wishes and intentions of the belligerant Powers.

With respect to what is said of *Modifications* in the Mediator's answer, I told him that what had been proposed by the Mediators respecting an American agent, and had been declined by Your Majesty as inadmissible, was in its nature incapable of modification; as to what related to the sending Plenipotentiaries to open the Congress generally, I took it ad referendum, as M. Simolin is come to make his communication, I will detain the Messenger to see whether he adds anything new.

M. Simolin said the same things in substance, but with more

clearness and precision; to assist his memory he read a Paper, which at my desire he left that I might lay it before your Majesty, but it was agreed between us that it was not to be considered as given in any shape whatever, as he was expressly ordered to give nothing in writing.

St. James's, *Novr.* 13, 1781
35 *m. p.* 3 P.M.

No. 3446—*Lord North to the King.*

14 *Nov.* 1781

Lord North, being a little indisposed, would wish to avoid, if possible, going abroad this wet day, and begs His Majesty's permission to absent himself from St. James's. He has the honour at the same time to send His Majesty a letter he has received from Lord Stormont, with an inclosure from the Lord Justice Clerk; Lord North believes that the two gentlemen are well intitled to the favour which is asked for them, but he begs leave to suggest to His Majesty that this appears a most proper opportunity to begin the alteration in the Court of Session which has been so often recommended by the persons the best acquainted with the state of Jurisprudence in Scotland. It has been their opinion that the Lords of Session are too numerous, and their salaries too small, and that Justice would be better administered, as well as the Judges better provided for, if the number of Judges were diminished, and the same sum of money distributed among the remainder. Lord North has always understood that eleven Judges, instead of Fifteen, would be able to administer Justice in Scotland, and that the Scotch Bar hardly affords a number of subjects sufficient to furnish a larger supply.

Downing Street, *Novr.* 14, 1781.

No. 3447—*Lord Cowper to the King.*

20th November, 1781

Sire—I take the liberty of presenting to Your Majesty the picture of Raphael done by himself, of which there is a print in London done by Charles Townley; it has been admired by everybody, particularly by the late Cav^{r} Mengs, who wanted to purchase it of me for his Catholick Majesty. I flatter myself

that Your Majesty will be graciously pleased to accept it, with his usual condescension and goodness.

I have another small box of miniatures of the Florentine gallery which I shall have the honour to present to Your Majesty next spring in person, as my departure from hence is fixed for that time.

I hope Your Majesty will not think me too presumptory if I request once more one of the four vacant blue ribbons or at least the next that vacates; I am very conscious of my little merit to deserve so distinguished a mark of your Royal favour but rely entirely upon Your Majesty's goodness.

I have the honour to be, with the greatest submission and respect, Sire, Your Majesty's most dutiful servant and subject

FLORENCE, 20*th Novr.* 1781. COWPER.

No. 3448—*Mr Charles F. Palmer to* [*the Lord Steward ?*].

MY LORD—The information I wished to communicate to Your Lordship respects the Manor of Sandhurst, A friend of Mrs. Fox's gave me permission to say that it was at His Majesties service if he wished to purchase it, and that no exorbitant price would be expected. Knowing the great affluence of Mrs. Fox, I was not less surprised than pleased at the offer, and have ever since wished for an opportunity of making it known with Propriety to His Majesty.

Your Lordship's attachment to the Forest I know to be equall to my own; and that you will at least excuse, if you cannot approve of what I lay before you.

I need not tell Your Lordp that the Manor of Sandhurst contains near 4,000 acres of waste ground, and that it is better calculated for the harbour of deer than any other part of the Forest. The Freeholders and Inhabitants of the Manor have not cattle sufficient to consume the pasture, and a very small portion indeed is sufficient to find turves for their firing. The Lord of the Manor claims this superfluous waste without any regard to the King's right of pasture for deer, and continues to ask annually a prodigious quantity of turves, to the amount of 100£ or more; by these means the Deer are robbed of pasture, harbour and quiet, for everyone who comes to the Heath brings

with him a dog. The Turf Cutter, the Broom Maker, and the Driver of the Team have all of them their Lurchers or Finders, and can disturb what they cannot destroy. Observe, My Lord, how much of this mischief will be prevented by transferring the rights of the Lord of the Manor to the Crown. The heath will have time to get up; the Deer will be undisturbed, and not a dog or a gun need be seen over the whole manor; for the Lord has a right of Free Warren, and an absolute exclusive Property in the Game. I should not say a word of the Forest Law, had it not unfortunately been in force in the time of Charles 2nd, and of course exempted the Forests from the controul of the Game Act which passed in that reign. If this Excepting Clause was repealed, and the Game Act exerted in its Full Force, I would venture to say that there would be no want of a Forest Law in any one instance. The Man of landed property (who is the best and most natural ally of the Forest) would at once get rid of three Troublesome Visitants! 1. The Unqualified Man who shoots because there is now no law to prevent him; 2, the Man who shoots under the illegal title of a Forest Licence—and 3, the Underkeepers of the Walks, who have as little right as the former Two.

To sum up all in few words:—the purchase of the Manor of Sandhurst and the exertion of the Game Act would have every good effect of the Revival of the Forest Law, without the odium.

I am, Your Lordship's much obliged and humble servant,

CHARLES F. PALMER.

LUCKLEY, *Nov.* 21, 1781.

No. 3449—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 392.

[The news of the disaster at Yorktown reached England on the 25th of November, and was alluded to in the King's Speech at the opening of Parliament on the 27th. The Address in Reply was carried by 218 to 129.]

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Nov.* 28*th*, 1781
m. 40 *pt.* 8 A.M.

Lord North's account that the Address was carried this morning by a considerable majority is very pleasing to Me as it

shows the House retains that spirit for which this Nation has always been renowned, and which alone can preserve it in its difficulties; that some principal Members have wavered in their sentiments as to the measures to be pursued does not surprize me; many men choose rather to despond on difficulties than see how to get out of them.

I have already directed Lord G. Germain to put on paper the mode that seems most feesible for conducting the War, that every Member of the Cabinet may have his propositions to weigh by themselves, when I shall expect to hear their sentiments separately, that we may adopt a Plan and abide by it; fluctuating Counsels, and taking up measures with[out] connecting them with the whole of this complicated War must make us weak in every part; with the assistance of Parliament I do not doubt if measures are well concerted a good end may yet be made to this War, but if we despond certain ruin ensues.

No. 3450—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Nov. 28th*, 1781
m. 8 *pt.* 8 P.M.

I cannot say I expected the Day [? Debate] of to-day would have been so short, considering the great love modern Orators have of hearing themselves speak; the Division was certainly a very good one, and I have no doubt when Men are a little recovered of the shock felt by the bad news, and feel that if we recede no one can tell to what a degree the consequence of this country will be diminished, that they will then find the necessity of carrying on the War, though the mode of it may require a[l]terations.

No. 3451—*Sir Stanier Porten to the King.*

29th Nov. 1781

Sir Stanier Porten most humbly begs leave to acquaint Your Majesty that as soon as he was informed of the late Lord Rochford's death, and of the Person to whom the Care of his affairs was entrusted, he suggested to Mrs. Johnson that he had often heard the late Lord declare that he intended to direct that all the Notes he had been honoured with from Your Majesty should, after his death, be returned to Your Majesty. As no mention

thereof was made in his Will, it was with some difficulty Mrs. Johnson was prevailed upon to relinquish them, but at last acquiesced, upon receiving the most solemn assurances that they would be sent to Your Majesty.

Sir Stanier desired Mr. Higden to go to St. Osyth to collect them together; he is just returned from thence with the three Packets sealed in her presence, and they are now sent to Your Majesty in the same manner in which they were received.

St. James's Place
29th November, 8 *o'clock* A.M., 1781.

No. 3452—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 393.

I have received the List of Speakers yesterday and the numbers of the Division; when Lord North said yesterday that he heard it was the intention of Opposition to attempt to postpone the usual Committee for granting a Supply, I owne I thought it too violent a measure for the Leaders to think advisable, and that they ought to throw the difficulty on Administration, not take it on themselves. I am happy so injudicious a measure has been pursued, not only Parliament but every man of reflection in the Kingdom must now see where these desperate men are driving, and this will, I trust, make Members attend assiduously as every unfair step may be expected and it behoves the friends of this Constitution to be always at hand to annul their attempts.

Windsor, *Dec. 1st*, 1781. *m.* 57 *pt.* 8 A.M.

No. 3453.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In the handwriting of Lord Stormont.]

Copy. at Lord Sandwich's, Decr. 1, 1781

Present

The whole Cabinet except Lord Privy Seal.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that orders be sent without delay to Admiral Digby to despatch immediately

to the Leward Islands as many ships of the line as he can spare, keeping a superiority of ships of the line over the French in those seas. This Detachment to return to him in the month of May.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that as many ships of the line of those ordered for the West Indies as are now ready be ordered to sail immediately, without waiting for the convoy of merchantmen.

An answer to the Replique des Cours Imperiales and also an answer to the Insinuation Verbale delivered to Sir James Harris were read and approved, the first with some alterations.

No. 3454—*Lord North to the King.*

2nd Dec. 1781

Lord North humbly solicits His Majesty to appoint Dr. Dampier Provost of Eton College in the room of Dr. Barnard. He begs leave at the same time to recommend to His Majesty the following promotions :

Dr. Davies to be Prebend of Windsor.

Dr. Cust, Dean of Rochester, to be Dean of Lincoln.

Dr. Wollaston to be Dean of Rochester, for which he will vacate a Prebend of Peterborough, for which he begs leave to recommend the Revd. Mr. Vyner.

He humbly recommends at the same time the Revd. Dr. Turner, Master of Emanuel College at Cambridge for the vacant Prebendary of Canterbury.

Bushy Park, *Decr. 2nd,* 1781.

No. 3455—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 394.

Windsor, *Decr. 2nd,* 1781
m. 55 *pt.* 3 P.M.

Lord North—I have this instant received your letter. You will recollect that when I told you that I thought the Provost of Eton was likely to die, I desired you would whenever that happened, recollect that I wished it might be given to the Man

whose literary tallents might make the appointment respectable. I cannot fairly look on Dr. Dampier as exactly answering that character; besides for a young man, he is greatly preferred, I would much rather give him a Deanery than put him where the person pitched upon ought either to have years or avowed tallents, save it would be very hard on Dr. Roberts.

I shall therefore only consent to Dr. Davies for the vacant Canonry of Windsor and leave the rest open till you have reconsidered it for Eton should not be bestowed by favour, but merit.

No. 3456—*Lord North to the King.*

[6 *December*, 1781.]

Lord North was afraid of detaining His Majesty too long if he had entered this morning upon the subject of the Ecclesiastical vacancies, upon which he will take another opportunity of troubling His Majesty. He only begs leave in order to explain a part of the arrangement upon which he wrote last Sunday to His Majesty, to mention that about seven or eight years ago, he gave an absolute promise to Dr. Wollaston to use his good offices to obtain a Canonry of Windsor for him and that the Deanery which he proposed for Dr. Wollaston was intended at the same time to satisfy that promise, to provide for Dr. Davies, and for a friend and relation of Mr. Vyner, who is ever impatient for some provision of this kind, and has often recommended his relative to Lord North with great vehemence, and some degree of dissatisfaction. If Dr. Wollaston has not the Deanery two of the points which Lord North had in view cannot be accomplished. Before Lord North had the honour of speaking to His Majesty upon this subject, he thought it right to explain his reason for recommending Dr. Wollaston, and he begs leave to add that Dr. Dampier is of the same age with Dr. Sleech when he was nominated to the Provostship of Eton College.

Endorsed by the King, Thursday, 5 o'clock P.M.

Ld North. Dec. 6th, 1781, 5 P.M.

Answered m. 10 pt. 6 P.M.

Approved of the Ecclesiastical Recommendations except the Provostship of Eton.

No. 3457—*The King to Lord North.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Decr. 6th*, 1781
m. 10 *pt.* 6 P.M.

I have not the smallest objection to Ld North's recommendation of Dr. Cust for the Deanery of Lincoln, to Dr. Wollaston to that of Rochester, to the Prebendery of Peterborough for Mr. Vyner; I only postponed them on Sunday out of civility to Lord North, but as He wishes them immediately filled up he has my consent to send the proper notification to the Secretary of State; as to the Provostship of Eton, Lord North knows that some months ago I mentioned to him that I expected He should recommend when it became vacant a person eminent in Letters, He owned the propriety and mentioned Dr. Roberts, who certainly would fill it creditably, it is irksome to me to be forced to speak out, I do not doubt Dr. Dampier is an honest man, but he certainly is no way eminent, if Lord North should hereafter wish to recommend him to a Deanery, I certainly should not object, but at Eton I must not have any but an able man if anyone can be found more proper than Dr. Roberts I am ready to accept him; Dr. Sleech was certainly not adequate to the situation.

No. 3458—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

(1) ST. JAMES'S, *Decr.* 7, 1781
25 *m.* P.M.

I unfortunately did not receive Your Majesty's Commands untill a few minutes ago. In the enclosed extracts from the Gazettes the only ones I have yet been able to find, Your Majesty will see that the Common Council are expressly named. My opinion on a general view of the subject would have been that Your Majesty should not receive upon the Throne anything but an address properly so called and entitled solely an address but how far the precedents in 1776 and 1775 decide against that opinion must be left to the consideration of those who are much abler to judge in such matters than I can possibly be. I should humbly conceive that there is no necessity for giving the Sheriffs an immediate answer.

No. 3459—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

(2) St. James's, *Decr.* 7, 1781
30 *m. p. One* P.M.

I have just been with Lord North. We are both of opinion that if Your Majesty has constantly received the Sherifs the first day they came and they should come to-day, it would be advisable to receive them, but that Your Majesty without giving any direct immediate answer may without impropriety say that you will let them know your pleasure.

There has not been time to take the opinion of any of Your Majesty's other confidential servants.

Lord North thinks that the omission of the Common Council must be a mistake in the News paper, and that would not be a proper ground of objection.

No. 3460—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

There are Precedents of addresses, Petitions and Remonstrances from the Lord Mayor, Aldermen and Livery in Common Hall assembled being received by Your Majesty upon the Throne in 1770, 1771, 1773, and 1775, but I find none of a subsequent date. Perhaps it was at that time that it was signified to them that Your Majesty would, for the future receive no such address upon the Throne. I have written to Lord Hertford upon the subject.

St. James's, *Decr.* 7, 1781. 40 *m. p. Ten* P.M.

No. 3461—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

The enclosed letters from Lord Hertford which I have just received show how accurate Your Majesty's recollection was, and are a further proof of the propriety of the answer given to the Sherifs.

I humbly conceive that there can be no doubt that the Resolution declared in 1775 should be strictly adhered to.

Portland Place, *Dec.* 7, 1781. 30 *m. p. Ten* P.M.

Enclosure. St. James's, *March 14th*, 1770

This day the Right Honble the Lord Mayor, some of the Aldermen, the Sheriffs. and many of the Common Council of the City of London, waited upon His Majesty, (being introduced by the Right Honble the Earl of Hertford) with the following Address, Remonstrance and Petition which was read by Sir James Hodges, Town Clerk.

To which Address, Remonstrance, etc. His Majesty was pleased to return the following answer

July 15th, 1775

This day the Rt. Honble the Lord Mayor, some of the Aldermen, the Sheriffs and Commons of the City of London, etc. . . . introduced etc by the Lord Chamberlain. . . .

To which address, Remonstrance, etc. etc. . . .

No. 3462.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In the handwriting of Lord Stormont.]

Copy. at Lord Hillsborough's. Dec. 8, 1781

Present

The whole Cabinet except Lord Privy Seal.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that under the present circumstances it would not be expedient to send to North America any more Force than what is necessary to recruit the Regiments there.

No. 3463—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

[The enclosure is wanting ; but the Lord Chamberlain's letter was printed in the *Gentleman's Magazine*. Its purport will be found in the Lord Mayor's letter *infra*, No. 3465.]

St. James's. *Decr.* 9, 1781

In obedience to Your Majesty's commands I send the drt. of a letter which was read and corrected at the meeting of yesterday. If it should be approved by Your Majesty it is humbly proposed that the Lord Chamberlain of the Household

should receive orders from Your Majesty to write and send to the Lord Mayor a letter conformable to the draught.

No. 3464—*Mr. Robinson to the King.*

Mr. Robinson has the honour to transmit again to Your Majesty the state of the House of Commons, which Your Majesty was pleased to return to Mr. Robinson from not knowing whether it might be wanted, because Mr. Robinson has the rough copy of it, and the State transmitted to Your Majesty was intended for Your Majesty's use, if you thought fit. Mr. Robinson had prepared a similar State preparatory to the Opening of the Sessions, and also as exact an Account of the Division on the Address as could be made out, which were laid before Lord North, but which Mr. Robinson did not transmit to Your Majesty, for fear of being too troublesome and presuming; but if Your Majesty shall please, and shall think that these papers will tend to enable Your Majesty to judge of the Friends of this Government, copies thereof shall be immediately made and transmitted to Your Majesty, as you shall be pleased to order. Lord North, Mr. Robinson apprehends, would lay to-day before Your Majesty the Minutes from the City relative to the receiving of the Petition from the Common Hall of the City of London, and state to Your Majesty the Proceedings at Westminster Hall to-day, and at the Surry Meeting, which was only preparatory to holding another for that County, and therefore Mr. Robinson does not presume to trouble Your Majesty on these subjects.

Parliament Street, 10*th December*, 1781. 6 P.M.

No. 3465—*The Lord Mayor to the Lord Chamberlain.*

12*th Decr.* 1781

My Lord—I have the honour of Your Lordship's letter of the 10th inst. stating "that it is well known to be the established custom for the King to receive upon the Throne, an Address from the City of London, only in their Corporate capacity, and that the same was signified by a letter written by Your Lordship in obedience to His Majesty's Commands, on the 11th of April, 1775, to the then Mayor," and acquainting me "by His Majesty's

Command, that His Majesty will receive at the Levee, on Friday the 14th instant, the Address, Remonstrance and Petition of the Lord Mayor, Alderman and Livery in Common Hall assembled.", in answer to which I beg leave, as to the question of Custom, to refer Your Lordship to the answer written to Your Lordship, by the then Mayor; and with respect to the present Address, Remonstrance and Petition, I am to represent to Your Lordship, that as the Resolution of the Livery in Common Hall assembled is, that it shall be presented to the King, sitting on his Throne, the persons directed by the said resolution to present it, cannot dispense therewith, by presenting the said Address, Remonstrance and Petition, in any other mode.

I have the honour to be, My Lord, Your Lordship's most obedient and most humble servant WM. PLOMER.

MANSION HOUSE, *Dec.* 12, 1781.

No. 3466—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 395.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Dec.* 13*th*, 1781
m. 35 *pt.* 8 A.M.

I owne I was rather disappointed at the Majority not being greater this morning, particularly when I read the question moved by Sir James Lowther, for though I think as things are situated it is impossible to propose great Continental opperations in North America, yet I am certain Parliament showing a reluctance to them must encourage the Rebells and make them plan offensive expeditions on our Posts, which would have been avoided had they not known that our measures would alone be defensive, it seems to me that Lord North could not avoid giving the explanation he did.

No. 3467—*The King to Lord North.*

LORD NORTH—I cannot see any reason for Lord Chesterfield's asking an Audience concerning the Lieutenancy of Bucks; the proper answer for you to give is that I have ordered the

Commission for that Appointment in his favour to be prepared, and take no notice of the rest of his letter.

Dec. 14*th*, 1781. *m.* 2 P.M.

No. 3468—*The King to Lord George Germain.*

WINDSOR, *Dec.* 15*th*, 1781

LORD GERMAIN GERMAIN [*sic*]—Not having seen you yesterday I take this method of acquainting you that I should think it must soon come under consideration who shall be appointed to command the Forces in North America; after all that has past, Sir Henry Clinton will hardly wish to stay there, nor perhaps would it be wise in administration to encourage him: Lord Cornwallis is now out of the case, therefore a new man must be sent, indeed as the Plan of War must be changed, it is highly proper that the General should not have been concerned in what has yet happened, there,—the Country will have more confidence in a new man; I believe without partiality that the Man who would in general by the Army be looked on as the best officer is Sir Guy Carleton besides his place in the Commission of Public Accounts makes him well known to Parliament, his uncorruptness is universally acknowledged, and as the shameful expenses have increased every year, it is necessary to consider who can best attack that horrid Hydra: whatever disagreements have been between you and him, I have no doubt if on consideration you should think him a proper person that both you and he will by some common friend so explain yourselves that an open explanation may be obtained between you that will make the public service be cheerfully carried on.

No. 3469—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 396.

WINDSOR, *Dec.* 15*th*, 1781

The Account of the very great Majority on the first Motion on the Army Estimates last night gives me much satisfaction, and shows the Country Gentlemen begin to see that though Internal Continental Opperations in North America are not

advisable, the prosecution of the War can alone preserve us from a most ignominious Peace, which when once concluded would certainly occasion much greater internal uneasiness than any difficulties at present to be contended with. I have just wrote to Lord G. Germain whom I did not see yesterday on the subject of Sir Guy Carleton.

No. 3470—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

16 *December*, 1781

Lord George Germain was obliged to be at the House of Commons on Friday, which prevented him from staying at St. James's till he could have had the honour of paying his duty to Your Majesty in the Closet.

Your Majesty judges extremely right in determining to send a new man to command in chief in North America; Sir Guy Carleton is looked upon by many people to be a good officer, and if Your Majesty thinks him in that and in every other respect qualified for so important a post, Lord George will be happy in hearing of his Appointment.

The very extraordinary letters which Sir Guy Carleton chose to write to Lord George still fill him with surprise and astonishment, as his motives for such conduct are still unknown, but the style and manner of them were improper to have passed between one gentleman and another, but Lord George could not presume to decide upon the propriety or impropriety used to Your Majesty's servant when he was executing your commands.

The little confidence which could ever subsist between Sir Guy Carleton and Lord George might, from Your Majesty's great condescension and goodness, create some doubt in your mind whether the appointment proposed might not prejudice Your Majesty's service, but in the present circumstances of affairs, there seems little probability that Your Majesty may find it convenient to continue the Seals much longer in Lord George's hands; the general dislike to the American War among the real friends of Government; the earnest desire expressed for accommodation, or rather for yielding up the rights of Sovereignty by many in Opposition and by others high in office and of great connections in the House of Commons convince Lord

George that measures are taking to bring about some change in Administration. The Meeting of the Cabinet yesterday confirms this opinion, for though the conversation would naturally have tarried upon the later transactions in the House of Commons, and the measures to be pursued in North America, yet a total silence was observed upon those subjects, which marked diffidence at least in each other. Whatever may be the result of the present situation, Your Majesty will undoubtedly not lose the opportunity of employing an Officer who has deserved your approbation and good opinion, as it may probably not suit Your Majesty's affairs that the person he has chosen to disagree with should be the Minister of the Department with which he will officially correspond.

PALL MALL. 40 *m. pt.* 11 A.M. 1781

No. 3471—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

16 *December* 1781

Lord George Germain has the honour of sending Your Majesty the Dispatches from Sir Henry Clinton brought by Lord Dalrymple.

The refugees express the strongest resentment and alarm about the 10th Article of Lord Cornwallis' capitulation. Sir Henry Clinton has endeavoured to appease them by an order to all his Posts that in case of a surrender, the Commanding Officer is to agree to no terms without including the refugees in them. Sir Samuel Hood sailed the 12th of November from Sandy Hook, the French Fleet sailed from Chesapeak the 6th. Admiral Digby cannot be sufficiently commended for sending so large a detachment of his fleet with Sir Samuel Hood.

PALL MALL, *December* 16*th*, 1781. 45 *m. pt.* 11 A.M.

No. 3472—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY, *Dec.* 18*th*, 1781

Lord Sandwich has the honour to inform Your Majesty that he is now in consultation with Lord Mulgrave and the Comptroller, and is forming a plan which he wishes to submit to Your

Majesty's consideration without delay, and for that purpose hopes to be allowed to attend Your Majesty at the Queen's House, at whatever hour you please to command.

Our present idea is to order Admiral Kempenfelt to go off Cadiz in hopes of intercepting the French ships in their return from Madeira; and to send a large reinforcement from home to the West Indies. We cannot however decide upon the possibility of Mr. Kempenfelt's going off Cadiz till we can look into the state of their provisions, which we are prevented doing for want of the weekly account now in Your Majesty's possession.

Lord Sandwich sends a private letter from Admiral Kempenfelt to the Comptroller for Your Majesty's information.

No. 3473—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's, *Dec.* 19, 1781
45 *m. p. Four* P.M.

Lord Rockingham moved that the 3rd Reading of the Land Tax should be postponed till the first day after the Recess. The general scope of his speech was that there must be a change of Men, Measures and System. . . . The Duke of Chandos spoke with violence on the same side, and said that he did not know whether even that would now save this country, but that the Nation had a right to expect that the experiment should be made.

Lord Westmoreland spoke well in answer, and in such a manner as I think indicates real talents for Parliamentary Debate.

No. 3474—*Sir Philip Francis to the Secretary at War.*

Harley Street, 21*st Decr.* 1781

Sir—In the Appendix to the first Report of the Secret Committee, No. 18, I have very lately seen a letter addressed to You by Sir Eyre Coote, by which I think myself greatly injured. It has been laid before the King, and it is now printed and published. The view with which the letter was written is too plain to be mistaken.

I do not mean to undervalue Sir Eyre Coote's Merit and Services, whatever they may be; but I cannot consent that his character should be exalted at the expense of mine. There *have*

been times when I had the good fortune to stand high in his opinion. I am not acquainted with his reason for departing from it; but since an Accusation of me, preferred by so respectable an Accuser as Sir Eyre Coote, has appeared before the King, I hope I shall not be thought irregular in requesting, that you will do me the honour to lay my Defence, contained in the enclosed paper, at His Majesty's feet.

May I request that you will be pleased to accompany it with a most humble and dutiful assurance on my part, that nothing less than a deep concern at seeing my conduct misrepresented to my Sovereign could have induced me to solicit one moment of His Majesty's attention to a subject so little worth of it.

I have the honour to be, with great truth and respect, Sir, Your most obedient humble servant, P. Francis.

No. 3475—*The King to Lord Stormont.*

Windsor, *Decr. 22nd*, 1781. [*Saturday*] *m. pt.* 8 A.M.

I think it right to acquaint Lord Stormont that I had, after he went from me yesterday, a conversation with Lord North, whose language was fully as strong and of the same complection as that I had then stated to you and Lord Hillsborough: I could not help saying to him that it was so extraordinary that I almost suspected that he painted his opinion in a stronger light than he felt in hopes of staggering mine, but that a sense of duty alone actuated mine[;] on this serious point he might throw off the mask; he assured me that he had not said an yota that was not dictated by the strongest conviction; on which I told him there were many unpleasant but intermediate steps to what I must ever deem *irrecoverable destruction* and to which I would never consent; that I by no means wanted him to open his mind to the whole Cabinet, but that now he would have some leisure, He ought to fix a Meeting with you and your Collegue to whose province negotiations of Peace must fall: he eagerly seized the idea and said He would very much wish to open himself entirely to both of you.

I desire you will show this to Ld Hillsborough and that he will without loss of time get a day fixed for the above Meeting.

It cannot be necessary for me to point out the line of conduct that will be becoming of You to hold on the Occasion, for I am certain You will be desirous of making Him speak out, and that you will probe the whole to the bottom, and if one Conversation cannot contain the various matters that must naturally arise if the discussion is a[s] close as I think necessary, that [a] subsequent Meeting will be settled at the time, that I may soon have the whole matter before me.

I should not be surprised if some of the heat and ill humour that shocked everyone on Thursday evening should arise again this day. I trust Lord Stormont will send me a short account if anything material should occur to-morrow, in the Minute of the Cabinet.

Draft, with many corrections.

No. 3476—*Lords Stormont and Hillsborough to the King.*

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

Lord Hillsborough and Lord Stormont have had a long conversation and will to the best of their power execute Your Majesty's Commands.

St. James's, *Decr.* 22*nd*, 1781.

[In Lord Hillsborough's handwriting.]

Lord Hillsborough hopes Your Majesty will pardon the Box going so late, the conversation with Lord Stormont being but this moment ended.

m. 35 *past three* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3477—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

Portland Place, *Saturday Night*
Decr. 22, 1781

The only thing resolved at the Meeting was that Lord George Germain should take Your Majesty's pleasure upon the Appointment of a Commander-in-Chief in America to relieve Sir Henry

Clinton. It was thought improper to take any Minute upon that subject till Your Majesty's sentiments were known. No officer whatever was named or so much as hinted at.

I never saw more harmony and good humour in any Meeting. Lord George's paper was talked of but in general terms, the Chancellor entered into some parts of it, but without the least desire of finding fault, and in the way of fair, liberal manly discussion. The full consideration of the Paper is to be entered into upon another occasion. Lord Hillsborough and I are to see Lord North to-morrow morning.

No. 3478—*The King to Lord Stormont.*

WINDSOR, *Decr.* 23*rd*, 1781. [*Sunday*] *m.* 40 *p.* 8 A.M.

I have not the smallest difficulty whenever Lord George Germain applies to Me for my Directions as to who is in the present state of things, the properest Person to be sent to take command of the Troops in North America to give my sentiments; but at the same time I shall certainly be obliged to take some days for consideration which reasons I shall very fairly state to Lord Stormont: Sir Guy Carleton will certainly not accept this Command if He is to correspond with Ld G. Germain, the latter expects He should unsay what stands in his correspondence, or the matter investigated by the Cabinet [*sic*] that it may be seen whether the Accusations are not groundless; consequently if Sir Guy is appointed it decides that Lord G. G. must, though with honour, gives up the Seals.

On Friday I again pressed Lord North for his opinion on the subject, and gained not the smallest ground He stated the advantages and disadvantages of the Measure and concluded with desiring time to consider of it. If Lord G. is to go, a successor must be immediately named to conduct the business; Lord North inclines to Mr. Jenkinson, but doubts much if he can persuade Him to accept of that Office; this ought also to be known, or who is fit for the Station if that arrangement cannot take place; but above all I must be certain that a new Secretary is not of the yielding side, therefore time must be given for acquiring all these informations; certainly no unnecessary delay

shall arise with Me, but Lord Stormont must see that with so many considerations I cannot myself fix the positive day as I must acquire all these informations.

Lord Stormont and Lord Hillsborough may perhaps forward this affair if they will in their conversation this morning with Lord North get on the subject of a Commander for North America, it naturally will arise from the other; He knows I have spoke to both of them on it; this may bring on some decision in his mind, and if He then writes to me, I will instantly direct Him to write to Mr Jenkinson who is, I believe, in Huntingdonshire, or if returned, to see Him, that no time may be unnecessarily lost.

I am agreeably surprised at the Meeting having gone off so amicably yesterday, which makes me hope that the ill-humour on Thursday evening was more the effect of temper than of design.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3479—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honour of sending to Your Majesty Governor Franklyn's letters, in first of which he complains of the harsh treatment the Loyalists met with from the Captain of the Bonetta Sloop, Lt. Colonel Simcoe confirms what is said of Captain Dundass's behaviour, and if Your Majesty approves of it, the Meeting of the Cabinet thought it right that Captain Dundass when exchanged should be brought to a Court Martial for the brutal behaviour he is accused of.

The Cabinet likewise agreed that Your Majesty should be applied to, that another Commander-in-Chief in North America should be appointed to relieve Sir Henry Clinton. The Chancellor agreed perfectly in opinion with Lord Sandwich about sending as many ships as could be spared to the West Indies, and seemed in very good humour in every respect.

Pall Mall, *December 23rd*, 8 *o'clock* A.M., 1781

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3480—*The King to Lord George Germain.*

WINDSOR, *Dec.* 23*rd*, 1781

I am sorry to find by the letter Lord G. Germain has received from Governor Franklyn how little care has been taken of the loyalists in North America, which seems to me a greater disaster than even the loss of that fine Army, for if the confidence of them is lost, I do not see what means there are of regaining it, and certainly the conduct of Capt Dundas when exchanged must be investigated by a Court Martial.

The appointing a Commander-in-Chief in North America is a measure of a complicated nature and requires thorough consideration before I can form an opinion enough digested to be able to state my thoughts to Lord G. Germain; he may rest assured that it shall be upmost in my thoughts and that I will not allow any unnecessary delay to arise in the determination of a point which must precede the other necessary steps for conducting the War in that part of the Globe.

I am glad the Meeting was conducted yesterday to the satisfaction of the persons present.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3481—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY. *Dec.* 23*rd*, 1781

Lord Sandwich takes the liberty to inform Your Majesty that he yesterday had a very long and friendly communication with Mr. Rigby; they met by accident in St. James's Park, and walked together above an hour, the whole of which was employed in conversing upon the subject of the Naval enquiry.

Lord Sandwich said that he feared nothing from that enquiry, unless there should be a party among the friends of government who wished a change of administration, and meant to effect their purpose by forcing out the First Lord of the Admiralty, who probably they considered as a principal outwork, which must occasion a surrender of the place; that he knew he could prove to demonstration that the exertions while he had been at the head of the department had been carried on to the utmost

extent that the strength of this country would admit of, and had infinitely exceeded anything that was ever done before; and that if the case was examined by unprejudiced hearers, he was certain, (and in which he was confirmed by the Comptroller of the Navy who was perfectly master of the subject) that the event would turn out highly to his credit, and that therefore he ought to court the enquiry.

Mr. Rigby professed the warmest friendship for Lord Sandwich, protested that he knew of no such party as Lord S. pointed out, that as for himself he would attend the enquiry from first to last, and that if things turned out in any degree as Lord S. had now said, he would be his warmest advocate; that he would come to the house with all his original prejudices in his favour, and would in the mean time give him all the advice and intelligence that he thought could be usefull to him. He said that he knew of the Message that Lord S. had sent by Robinson to the Advocate, and that notwithstanding that he, the Advocate, did not encourage the interview, he could be answerable that the Advocate had no prejudice against Lord S. and that he would come into the house with the same dispositions as himself.

Lord Sandwich then said that he had some ground to apprehend that there was such a party as he had described, that he had heard so from persons well informed, and that Lord Chancellor's inveteracy against Lord S. was a strong symptom that his apprehensions were not ill-founded.

Mr. Rigby acknowledged that Lord C. was very hostile to Lord S. which he knew not how to account for, but that as for himself he made the most solemn protestations that he should not pay the least attentions to the absurd prejudices of Ld. C. or any other person whatsoever, and that he was certain Lord S. had nothing to fear from any cabal among those now acting with Government, provided his cause was a good one. He then went on to give his advice as to the mode of conducting the enquiry, which he said ought to be particularly attended to and well digested between Lord North and Lord Sandwich; that he desired Lord North might be apprized that the Opposition had not pledged themselves to conduct the enquiry, and that if they knew that their ground was not good with regard to the want of exertion in augmenting the fleet, which is the principal point, he did not think they would put themselves at the head of it;

what was then to be done ? He saw great danger, and was clearly of opinion that Lord S. ought not on any account to adopt the measure of attempting to quash the business in its outset, but to go some way into it and to take advantage of occurrences to put an end to it ; that this ought to be very seriously considered, and all our measures prepared before the business came on, that we might not in the house be of different opinions what should be done.

He concluded by saying that he had the means of finding out what part the Opposition intended to take, of which he would not fail to apprize Lord S. in a few days, and that he should be glad to have another interview with Lord S. towards the end of the week when he would tell him all he had picked up, of which he would best know how to make the proper use.

Yesterday at the Cabinet dinner, Lord Chancellor appeared quite a different man from what he had shown himself at the last Meeting ; he was in perfect good humour all the time, was communicative, and not unwilling on some points to give advice ; and what was more particular was, that he declared in express terms that the war in America ought not to be abandoned till Peace was made. He had however some little flings at several present, particularly Lord North, Lord George Germain and Lord Sandwich, but what he said was in good humour and it was plain he did not mean to dwell on anything offensive, talking of deciding upon measures, or blinking the point, he said he was always for decision, tho' there were wiser heads than his who he understood judged differently, and generally chose to avoid the question.

He said something as to the abilities and merits of Ld Howe, which was a little contravened by Lord Sandwich, though without any warmth or altercation on either side.

He entered a good deal into the discussion of Lord George's plan for carrying on the War, and asked Lord G. where the man was to be found that was qualified to act the superintending part which was so principal a point in the arrangement he proposed. Upon the whole Lord S. is glad to be able to inform Your Majesty that there was not a single expression that fell from Lord C. that could give offence to anyone present, or lead to believe that he meant to sow dissentions amongst us.

If Your Majesty will trouble yourself to throw your eye over a

paper herewith enclosed, Your Majesty will probably think proper to direct Ld Sandwich to strike Lieut. Child out of the list of Marine Officers, without the formality of a Court Martial.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3482—*The King to Lord Sandwich.*

WINDSOR, *Decr.* 23*rd*, 1781

The whole conversation Lord Sandwich states to have past yesterday between him and Mr Rigby in St. James's Park is so very different to the language supposed to have been held by that Gentleman for some time, that it cannot but occasion surprise; if He really means to give intelligence to Lord Sandwich, He may be the better prepared to have the enquiry into the Navy conducted with propriety, as it is to come on, it should certainly be as full as the nature of it and that proper caution not to grant Papers that may do harm will admit.

I am happy at finding the conduct of the Chancellor was less inimical yesterday than on Thursday evening, I should hope therefore that the impropriety that then appeared arose from temper rather than design.

The report of the Officers of Marines who have examined into the conduct of Lieut Child certainly authorises the superceding him, without the formality of a Court Martial.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3483—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

HANOVER SQUARE. *Dec.* 23*rd*, 1781
43 *m. p. Three* P.M.

Lord Hillsborough and Lord Stormont have just had a long conversation with Lord North. Though he spoke of the Reserves of this Country as nearly exhausted and held a desponding language yet he declared strongly against holding such language in Public, intimating at the same time that the oftener his and other people's opinions upon the subject were canvassed and examined in secret and changed upon good argument, the better it would be.

He gave the same opinion with regard to the little Importance of such sovereignty as could now be retained over the Colonies in rebellion that he had given to Your Majesty and added that he had mentioned his sentiments to Your Majesty, with which yours did by no means agree. But he did not intimate the least Intention of agreeing to give up the sovereignty and spoke in general of the Impropriety of mentioning in public any conditions of peace.

He avoided giving any decided opinion about Lord George's retiring, or the appointment of Sir Guy Carleton, but said that he apprehended they could not go on together.

The conversation was so long that Lord Hillsborough and Lord Stormont cannot presume to trouble Your Majesty with the Detail of it in writing, but upon the whole they had the satisfaction to find Lord North in a disposition to wait events, and deriving comfort from the probability of the success of the Dutch Negotiation.

No. 3484—*The King to Lord Stormont.*

WINDSOR. *Dec.* 23*rd*, 1781
m. 22 *pt.* 7 P.M.

The conversation Ld Hillsborough and Ld Stormont have had this day with Lord North seems to have been the exact counterpart of many I have had with Him, and as little conclusive. I do not find that it has advanced any one measure, even as to Lord G. Germain and Sir Guy Carleton, it leaves it in the same indecisive mode.

Lord G. Germain has this day wrote to me that the Cabinet wish to know who I think most proper to succeed Sir Henry Clinton. I could as things are situated give no other than the following answer, vide 2nd paragraph of Draft to Lord G. G. Windsor Dec. 23rd 1781.

I shall certainly write to-morrow to Lord North to press for his Opinion, which I fear I shall not be able to get him to do with that precision as may enable Me to decide finally; indeed if Sir Guy is fixed upon, Lord G. G.'s Successor must be named at the same time.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3485—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 397.

WINDSOR. *Dec. 26th,* 1781
m. 46 *pt.* 8 A.M.

On Sunday evening I received from Lord George Germain an application in the name of the Cabinet, that another Commander-in-Chief be appointed for North America, to which I returned the following answer :

" The Appointing a Commander-in-Chief in North America is a measure of a complicated nature and requires thorough consideration before I can form any opinion enough digested to be able to state my thoughts to Lord G. Germain ; he may rest assured that it shall be uppermost in my thoughts and that I shall not allow any unnecessary delay to arise in the determination of a point which must precede the other necessary steps for conducting the War in that part of the Globe."

Having spoke twice fully on the subject to Lord North, and having nothing new arise in my mind on it, I chose to let a few days elapse before I desired Lord North's final Opinion on this subject. I shall therefore be very short on this occasion ; undoubtedly if Sir Guy Carleton can be persuaded to go to America, he is every way the best suited for the Service, He and Lord G. Germain are incompatible ; Lord George is certainly not unwilling to retire if He gets his object, which is a Peerage ; no one can then say He is disgraced and when his retreat is accompanied with the Appointment of Sir Guy Carleton, the cause of it will naturally appear without its being possible to be laid with any reason to a change of my sentiments on the essential point, namely the getting a Peace at the expense of a Separation from America, which is a step to which no difficulties shall ever get me to be in the smallest degree an Instrument.

If Lord North agrees with me that on the whole it is best to gratify the wishes of Lord G. Germain and let him retire, that no time may be lost, I desire he will immediately sound Mr. Jenkinson as to his succeeding him, for I must be ready with a Successor before I move a single step.

Had Lord North thought the American Secretary might cease, Lord Stormont could with great [?] conduct the correspondence

with all the European Courts, Lord Hillsborough instead of the Southern Courts take the American business in addition to his remaining branches.

Two copies, both in the King's hand.

No. 3486—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's, *Decr. 26th*, 1781
30 *m. p. Two* P.M.

Not finding any Precedent of an Address and Petition from the East India Merchants being received by Your Majesty upon the Throne, I have written to Lord Hertford agreeably to Your Majesty's Commands.

No. 3487.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

Copy.

at Lord Amherst's Dec. 29, 1781

Present

Lord President, Lord Sandwich, Lord George Germain, Lord North, Lord Amherst, Lord Stormont.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that considering the great Force the enemy are collecting in the West Indies it would be expedient that the five ships of the Line reserved for future consideration in a former Minute be ordered to sail for the West Indies without waiting for each other, as soon as they can be got ready.

No. 3488—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain begs leave to submit to Your Majesty's consideration the drafts of the letters which may be dispatched to-morrow night, if they meet with Your Majesty's approbation. Lord George hopes to have the honour of receiving Your Majesty's

Commands upon them to-morrow after the Levee, but he apprehends from the variety of business which will be then brought before Your Majesty that it may be less troublesome humbly to submit them in this manner for Your Majesty's approbation.

PALL MALL, *Jany. 1st*, 1782. 5 *m. pt.* 8 P.M.

No. 3489—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honour to acquaint Your Majesty that the Mail for New York will be made up this night and the Letters will be sent from the Office by twelve o'clock. If Your Majesty has not time to write this evening to the Prince, an Express despatched any time to-morrow will be at Falmouth before the Mail arrives.

PALL MALL, *Jany. 2nd*, 1782. 8 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 3490.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

Copy.

at Lord President's, Jany 3rd, 1782

Present

The whole Cabinet except the Chancellor and Lord Privy Seal.

A Memorial from Lord Rawdon being read by His Majesty's Command and taken into consideration, it is humbly submitted to His Majesty that considering the eminent services of the Irish Regiment raised by Lord Rawdon in America, and the peculiar circumstances which distinguish it, it would be expedient that the above Regiment as soon as compleated from Ireland in the manner proposed, should be put upon the British Establishment.

Lord Amherst sees no objection to the showing every distinction to Lord Rawdon, but has strong military objections to this arrangement.

No. 3491.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

Copy. at Lord Hillsborough's, Jany. 10th 1782

Present

The whole Cabinet except Lord Privy Seal and Lord George Germain.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that the Dft of Instructions to Rear Admiral Rowley for sending the Line of Battle Ships and some Frigates to the Leward Islands in order to strengthen S^{r} George Rodney's Flee^{t} for the defence of Jamaica be approved.

No. 3492.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

Lord Stormont to the King.

If the Dfts now submitted to Your Majesty as [to] Mr. Wentworth's Instructions meet with your approbation, he will be directed to set out as soon as possible. The addition in the margin was made in consequence of the conversation I had this morning upon the subject with Lord North.

ST. JAMES'S, *Jany. 11th*, 1782. 36 *m. p. Three* P.M.

No. 3493—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

PORTLAND PLACE, *Jany. 13th*, 1782
40 *m. p. One* P.M.

The contents of Mr. Fitzherbert's letters are so important that I will not lose a moment in transmitting them to Your Majesty. Mr. Fitzherbert is so very punctual in the discharge of his duty and so attentive to everything that relates to Your Majesty's service that I have long wished to recommend him to Your Majesty for some mark of your goodness.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3494—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's, *Jany.* 14, 1782

Sir Robert Keith's conduct in the interesting conversation of which he gives an account in his confidential letter will, I am persuaded, meet with Your Majesty's approbation. Prince Karolyi's language upon this occasion seems very fair and honourable.

If Your Majesty is so good as to mention to Lord Sandwich the importance of deriving every possible advantage from the Providential dispersion and distress of the French fleet, it will greatly quicken the exertions of the Board of Admiralty. There never was a moment that required them more.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3495—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I am sorry to hear that Your Majesty is detained from your Levee by indisposition.

I send Your Majesty in the Box all the papers I had to lay before you, and I add some Establishments, which want your Royal signature. I would not trouble Your Majesty by waiting on you, as I have nothing special, and Your Majesty can command me, whenever you think proper.

From Your Majesty's dutiful subject, C. Jenkinson.

War Office, *Jany.* 16*th*, 1782. *m.* 25 *past* 2.

No. 3496—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

Lord George Germain has the honour to send to Your Majesty the dispatches which he received yesterday from Quebec, Jamaica and the Leeward Islands.

Lord George likewise takes the liberty of recommending to Your Majesty George Sackville Sutherland, the son of Major Lewes Sutherland, to be Clerk of the Markets in Sandwich, in the room of Anthony Wheelock, deceased. This Office has been

vacant for some months and is valued at One Hundred and Fifty pounds a year.

Lord George was in hopes of paying his duty to Your Majesty at St. James's, but being informed there was no Levee, he hopes Your Majesty will excuse him making his application in this manner.

WHITEHALL, *Jany. 16th*, 1782. 35 *Minutes pt.* 2 P.M.

No. 3497—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 402.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Jany. 17th*, 1782
m. 2 *pt.* 7 P.M.

I send back the two Boxes of Warrants which I have signed; Lord North not having yet come to any decision concerning Lord G. Germain put me this day under much difficulty He having put the question to me whether he was or was not to look on himself as Secretary of State, and complained of Lord North's reception of Mr. Knox when sent to ask him that question, to which I could only say that as yet certainly no step had been taken to remove him, but that I thought I had a right to ask him whether or not he was willing to remain, to which He spoke very candidly that if the War was carried on with vigour if steps were taken to strike a blow in the West Indies, He was ready to stay, and that the separation with America was not adopted, but that He would never retract what he had said on that Head. He will be ready to talk with Ld North, but he will expect explicit and decisive language indeed I cannot blame him for that; for I think he cannot with honor continue unless he is supported by his Collegues.

Draft.

No. 3498—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

17 *January*, 1782

I am glad to hear from Your Majesty that your cold is better. Your Majesty acts with great prudence in not having a Levee

to-morrow, and I hope your cold will not be increased by your attendance at the Drawing Room.

I trouble Your Majesty with a Warrant for holding Court Martial at Goree. There is enclosed in it another to be cancelled, which upon consideration is thought to contain greater power than it is safe to entrust to a Commandant at Goree.

I saw Lord North about a week ago, at his desire, when he held a long discussion with me, by which I clearly saw that he had not come to any resolution ; I observed that he was strongly impressed with a fear of displeasing Lord Advocate, and I think he means to wait till the other comes to Town ; I suspect also that Lord Hillsborough does hurt by communicating too much of what is said in the Closet. From that time I have not seen either Lord North or Mr Robinson or heard anything from them ; but I saw this morning Sir Grey Cooper, and I learnt from him as well as Mr. Charles Townshend that Lord North still remained in the same uncertain state of mind, and wanted Lord Advocate in town, and I hear that Lord George Germain has expressed his displeasure for being left by Lord North in the situation he is.

If I had paid my duty to Your Majesty I intended to have communicated this to you, and I thought I might presume to send it to Your Majesty for your information ; though I am cautious of what I say and do in a business in which my name has had some share.

The Duke of Gloucester sent Col. Hyde to me this morning to apprize me that Col. Conway had proposed to sell to Capt. Glynn at considerably more than the regulated price ; that he hoped Glynn would not be set aside, as he was the oldest Lieutenant and the oldest Adjutant of the Regiment. Col. Conway did not purchase his Company, nor any other Commission, except paying the difference between a Lieutenancy and Troop of Dragoons.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject, C. Jenkinson.

Parlt. Street, ½ *past* 9, *Jany.* 17*th*, 1782

I add two other Warrants for Your Majesty's signature, which are just sent me from the Office.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3499.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

[In Lord Stormont's handwriting.]

Copy.

At Lord Sandwich's, Janry. 17, 1782

Present

The whole Cabinet except Lord Privy Seal.

Agreed that it be submitted to His Majesty that it would be expedient that the sailing orders for the Five Men-of-War intended to join Sir George Rodney be postponed for a time.

No. 3500—*Lord North to the King.*

20th Jany. 1782

SIR—I hear that Lord George Germain has expected me to communicate some orders which he supposes that I received from Your Majesty on Thursday last, and from that circumstance, I am afraid that my memory, which grows weaker every day, has failed me upon this occasion, as I do not remember any particular communication which I was directed by Your Majesty to make to His Lordship. If I had no such orders, I beg leave to trouble Your Majesty only to read this letter, and if I receive no Command from Your Majesty in consequence of this note, I shall conclude that Lord George was mistaken; but if I have neglected to deliver any message from Your Majesty to Lord George Germain, I humbly request Your Majesty to renew your orders, that I may immediately carry them into execution, and I trust in Your Majesty's goodness, that you will attribute this omission to my forgetfulness, which grows daily upon me, and renders me totally unfit for the important and active situation which Your Majesty has intrusted to me.

Lord Guildford has, I believe, laid before Your Majesty Lord Dartmouth's reason for absenting himself so long from Court, and particularly for not having attended at St. James's on Her Majesty's Birthday. The truth was that his health, though much re-established, was in such a ticklish situation, that he could not venture himself in a crowd, or a hot room, without danger. He was very uneasy that this circumstance prevented

him from paying his duty to Your Majesty and the Queen; I am sorry to add that news arrived in town yesterday from Sandwich that he had just had a relapse of his former complaint, and was not so well as he had been for some time past.

I beg leave to subscribe myself, with the truest attachment and fidelity, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful subject, and servant, NORTH.

SION HILL, *Jany. 20th*, 1782

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3501—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 403.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Jany. 21st*, 1782
m. 10 *pt.* 10 A.M.

If Lord North had opened the Boxes of Warrants which he sent to Me on Thursday, and which I returned that evening, he would have found in one of them a letter I wrote after having that day seen Lord G. Germain, wherein I stated all that had past; to this I refer Lord North, and shall only remark that Lord North on that day had told me that Mr. Knox had been with him some days before with a Message from Lord G. Germain, to know whether he was or was not to remain in office, and that on Friday he meant to talk the matter over with Lord G. Germain; therefore when Lord George asked of Me the same question, and complained of the reception Lord North had given to Mr. Knox, I told him Lord North had just said he meant the next day (Friday) to have a personal interview with Him; undoubtedly the strange indecision on the subject of Lord G. Germain is [not] creditable, and the more displeasing to me who wish ever to appear fair and open, but who could not speak but half words with Lord George, as Lord North has chosen to keep this affair above six weeks in the same state of indecision, which certainly has delayed the preparation for the next campaign. I shall only add that on one material point, I shall ever coincide with Lord G. Germain, this is against a separation from America, and that I shall never lose an opportunity of declaring that no consideration shall ever make me in the smallest degree an Instrument in a measure that I am confident would anihilate

the rank in which this British Empire stands among the European States, and would render My situation in this Country below continuing an Object to me.

I am sorry to find Lord Dartmouth has had a return of his disorder; I trust it is but slight.

Two copies, both in the King's hand, one of them endorsed.

No. 3502—*Mr Jenkinson to the King.*

21 *Jany* 1782

I feel very sensibly your Majesty's goodness and confidence in communicating the inclosed papers to me: I have heard from Mr. Robinson that Lord North, though determined to go on, is in very low spirits, as he always is at this season of the year, when the time for opening the Budget approaches. This Mr. Robinson told me yesterday, and in a letter I have received from him this morning, he tells me that Lord North has written a very long and friendly letter to Lord George Germain, desiring to see him. I think it probable that this business may end amicably, if the arrival of the Advocate in Town to-day does not stir up something new.

I was glad to find to-day that Your Majesty was so much better.

Not having seen Your Majesty for some time, I have not had it in my power to make the Speaker's apology to Your Majesty, as he desired me, for not paying his Duty to Your Majesty and the Queen on Friday: He has had a fitt of the Gout, and He was fearful that, if He had ventured out on that day, he might have been laid up, and not able to attend the House of Commons.

From Your Majesty's dutyfull subject, C. Jenkinson.

Parlt. Street, *Jany.* 21*st*, 1782. *One o'clock.*

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3503—*Lord North to the King.*

[21 *January* 1782.]

Sir—Having sent my last note to Your Majesty from Mr. Robinson's, I enclosed it in an old Box which my key cannot

open, so that I have been obliged to wait till eleven o'clock for the assistance of Mr. Robinson to open the Box. I never had the honour of reading the letter Your Majesty did me the honour of sending on Thursday with the Warrants, which I suppose happened in this manner; a Clerk of the Treasury was waiting with great impatience for the Warrants as soon as I should receive them from Your Majesty; The Box was brought to me while I was in Company, and, as I did not expect anything besides the Warrants, I opened the Box in haste, delivered the Warrants to the Clerk, and shut the Box again without seeing any other paper. By this means I was deprived of receiving Your Majesty's note till this moment; since I have had the honour of reading Your Majesty's letter of to-day. I am very sensible how unfit I have always been, and how much more unfit I am now to decide in matters of nicety and difficulty, and if I had not repeatedly laid before Your Majesty my incapacity, and humbly advised Your Majesty more than once a year during the past ten years to place your affairs in other hands, I should take to myself a much greater share of the blame for what Your Majesty's service has suffered by my indecision.

In the present case, my difficulties are these; I never suggested to Your Majesty that the removal of Lord George Germain would prove of permanent benefit to your service, nor do I think it will, because, although many of my principal friends will become very lukewarm if he continues in office, I apprehend their objections are stronger against his System than his person. When Your Majesty consulted me upon his situation, you were graciously pleased to say that you could take no steps till you heard whether Mr. Jenkinson would accept his office or not. Mr. Jenkinson declined, and then I stated to Your Majesty how difficult my situation would be in the House of Commons if there should be no Minister in the House acquainted with the American affairs, and ready to answer to these points when they occur, as they do almost every day in debate; Indeed it will be quite impossible for me to go through this additional trouble; There is no person willing or capable of giving me assistance, besides Mr Jenkinson, except the Lord Advocate, but there are great difficulties in placing him in such a situation as to enable me to draw from him the support I want; ability, spirit, eloquence he has in perfection, but how far he may be capable of any

situation, where he can acquire competent knowledge, I am not able to determine.

Your Majesty sees my difficulties and Your Majesty will perceive that it is not easy to remove them. If General Carlton were appointed Commr. in America, and Lord George Germain removed in an honourable and distinguished manner into the Upper House, and either Mr Jenkinson or Lord Advocate placed in a situation that would put it in their power to answer to all American Points, Your Majesty's affairs would certainly go on with greater ease for some time, But I am afraid that the difficulties we are under will not be entirely removed by this measure. Peace with America seems necessary, even if it can be obtained on no better terms than some Federal Alliance, or perhaps even in a less eligible mode. This is my opinion, which I have had the honour of submitting before to Your Majesty, and I think it is my duty to suggest once more whether, if Your Majesty's sentiments coincide more with Lord George Germain's than mine, you would choose that he should appear to give way to me. Lord George is to call upon me to-morrow morning, and I will very fully and very frankly compare my opinions with his, and report to Your Majesty what appears to be the best course to hold ; but I shall do it with great diffidence, because, in fact, I am not capable of giving wise advice in so nice a matter. Lord Advocate is not yet come to town, so that I cannot tell what I may expect from him, but I believe I may depend upon his zealous and effectual support.

I have the honour of informing Your Majesty that yesterday Mr. Wentworth informed me that it was his intention to set out for Holland early this morning, and I suppose that he is gone.

I have just heard that Lord Dartmouth is again on the mending hand, but he has been so uneasy at having been prevented from attending his duty in town, and so desirous that I should lay his excuses before Your Majesty I thought Your Majesty would forgive my troubling you on this subject.

I beg leave to subscribe myself, with the utmost devotion and attachment, Sir, Your Majesty's most faithful and most obedient and most dutiful subject and servant, NORTH.

This letter is undated but is enclosed in a sheet of paper on which the King has written, Ld North, Downing St, Jan. 21st, 1782. Rd. m. 10 p. one A.M. 22nd.

No. 3504—*Mr Jenkinson to the King.*

Parlt. Street, *Jany.* 22*nd,* 1782
¼ *p.* 12

I must again repeat my humble thanks to Your Majesty for the great Confidence you repose in me by trusting to my knowledge all that is passing on the present Occasion. Lord North's indecisive manner of transacting business is very hurtful to the Public service; and Your Majesty acts with great Kindness to Him and with great Wisdom in bearing with it as much as you can, and particularly in not answering His present Letter. At this season of the year, Lord North has always one of these sorts of Fits, which are really like the paroxisms of a disease, and ought as such to be treated. As Lord North will not see Lord Advocate before he has the Conference with Lord George Germain, I trust that the Conversation will be candid and free from all Prejudice. Your Majesty knows that it has for some time been my Opinion that it was Lord North's intention to bring forward the Lord Advocate; I entertain great doubts whether his Intentions were ever very favourable to me, notwithstanding what he says, and though he now states my declining to go into Lord G. Germain's situation as one Ground of his present difficulties. Lord Advocate has certainly great Qualities for the House of Commons, and is certainly fitter to deal with Lord North's indecisive manner than I am, who should in such a situation probably quarrel with him in a very short time, and thereby disturb Your Majesty's affairs, and I should be an ungrateful servant to Your Majesty if I did not earnestly entreat that no consideration of me may stand in the way of any arrangement you may think proper to make.

And allow me as a faithful Servant and as one who bears the strongest Duty and Affection to Your Royal Person, also to entreat Your Majesty not to suffer any great Question of Policy to rest singly on discourses in your Closet between Your Majesty and Lord North, or any one of your Ministers, but to refer the same to your Council for their deliberation, with orders for them to report to Your Majesty their Opinion thereupon.

I hope that Your Majesty's cold continues to mend.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject, C. Jenkinson.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3505—*Lord George Germain to the King.*

22nd Jany. 1782

Lord George Germain has the honour of acquainting Your Majesty that he has this moment received a note from Lord Cornwallis, dated from Lambeth, and Lord George has appointed to see him to-morrow at eleven o'clock.

Lord George has at last had a full conversation with Lord North; what the result of His Lordship's opinion will be, Your Majesty may by this time know; all that Lord George desired, was, that he might be made acquainted with Your Majesty's intentions, as soon as possible, as he thought it would be highly expedient, before any Question was agitated in Parliament, that the change of office should take place, if the Seals were to be put in other hands.

Lord George can only repeat his most earnest and sincere wish that whatever may be resolved upon may tend to Your Majesty's honour and Service; the great object of his life is to show his duty, his gratitude and disinterested attachment to Your Majesty.

WHITEHALL, *Jany. 22nd,* 1782. 35 *m. pt.* 3 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3506—*The King to Lord George Germain.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Jany. 22nd,* 1782
m. 25 *pt.* 4 P.M.

This instant I have received Lord George Germain's account of Lord Cornwallis being arrived at Lambeth, and that he is to-morrow to be at Eleven with Lord George; as many other Officers that are here on parole have been presented, and as I do not lay anything at the charge of Lord Cornwallis, I cannot see why he shall not be presented at my Levee to-morrow; Lord George will therefore appoint him to be there.

I have as yet no account of what has past between Lord George Germain and Lord North, nor indeed the smallest guess what Lord North meant to say on the occasion; therefore can add nothing, but that the expressions of Duty and Attachment in the note meet with my thorough thanks.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3507—*Mr Jenkinson to the King.*

PARLT. STREET, *Jany.* 22*nd*, 1782
m. 40 *pt.* 6

Mr. Robinson has just been with me and told me all he had learnt from Lord North of the Conference with Lord G. Germain. It appears to have been very amicable, and as far as I can understand, they differed less on American Politicks than might have been expected. They differed more on the person who was to have the Command in America, Lord George Germain objecting to Genl. Carleton and proposing Lord Cornwallis, if he could be set at liberty, or Genl. Vaughan. On the whole, I cannot with any certainty inform Your Majesty what will be the issue, but if no one interposes so as to render ill offices, I think that everything may go on as it is.

From Your Majesty's dutyfull subject, C. JENKINSON.

Endorsed by the King.

Mr. Jenkinson, Parlt. Street
Jan. 22nd, 1782. 12 at night

No. 3508—*Mr Jenkinson to the King.*

[22 *January*, 1782]

I was gone from home before the return of the Messenger, and Your Majesty's packet found me at the Attorney General's, where I attended on a Consultation concerning the Borough of Saltash, where I could not write to Your Majesty as I should have been observed by all that were present: I mention this as an humble apology to Your Majesty for not having returned an immediate answer to Your Majesty's Note.

I think it evident from Lord G. Germain's note that He has no particular wish to quit Your Majesty's service at present, and as He and Lord North do not seem to differ very widely on the American Point, I think that Lord North's natural good humour will incline him to settle the whole amicably. There were some anxious Particulars in their conversation, too long to be told in a letter, which tend to disclose their real sentiments more than I knew before, and which I will relate to Your Majesty when I pay my duty to you to-morrow at St. James's.

If Your Majesty should wish to be informed of them before you see Lord G. Germain and Lord North, I will walk to the Queen's House in the morning to enquire after Your Majesty's Health, when Your Majesty may order me to be brought in to you, if Your Majesty thinks proper. I write this late at night and will order it to be carried to Your Majesty between 7 and 8 to-morrow morning.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject, C. JENKINSON.

PARLT. STREET, 12 *o'clock at Night.*

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3509—*The Duke of Somerset to* [*Lord Hertford ?*].

MY DEAR LORD—I should have much earlier acknowledged Your Lordship's favour of last Month, had I not flattered myself I should have been able to have done it in Person, next month ; but as I am informed, the small pox is in almost every village and town, in my way to London ; and probably the very bed I should lay in, on the Road, might be occupied the Night before, by a Person in, or just out from Inoculation ; and the first Person I met with in Town have the disorder about him ; so prevalent are the times for Inoculation ; that it is dangerous for a Person in my situation (not to mention my Age and Ill-Health) that I must postpone it till the present Taste is somewhat abated, which in a short time must cure itself, as there will not be subjects to inoculate, except new-born Children.

I should be much concerned if I thought His Majesty's business would be in the least obstructed by my Absence ; but if I had ventured to Town, I should only pay my duty to the King at St. James's ; thence to the House to take up my Proxy, and solicited your Lordship's acceptance of it, and the next morning set out for Bradley.

My best respects attend Your Lordship and Family, and believe me to be, in great truth,

Your Lordship's affectionate Cousin, faithful friend and servant, SOMERSET.

M. BRADLEY, *Jany. 23rd,* 1782

No. 3510—*Lord Sandwich's Defence of his Administration of the Navy.*

[This long document has no title nor date, and is written in a clerk's handwriting; but it contains corrections in Lord Sandwich's hand, also an endorsement "State of Naval Affairs, Jan. 1782," leaving little doubt as to its authorship.

The reference to storms concerns chiefly the great hurricane of the 15th of October, 1780, in the Windward Islands.

The documents quoted in proof of the statements are not printed.]

Though the Naval enquiry may branch out into many points, both civil and military, it is to be supposed that the principal object in view is to see whether every possible exertion has been used to increase our number of ships and to keep them in constant readiness for service; and that if it shall appear to the House that the Admiralty have done everything in their power to attain this end, and have carried their exertions infinitely further than ever was done before in any period, the prejudices that may subsist against the present Naval Administration will insensibly die away, and the enquiry be attended with applause instead of censure on that important Department.

I will therefore begin by observing what has been done since the year 1771, the time when the Earl of Sandwich first came to the Head of the Board, to the present moment. And here I must first desire that it may be recollected that he came to the management of a Fleet that had been exceedingly neglected for some years past, was greatly out of repair, that there was scarcely any timber in any of the Dockyards, and a total despondency at the Navy Office as to the means of procuring it; it being generally understood that the timber of this country was exhausted; which opinion was confirmed to Lord Sandwich by Sir John Williams, who then was and still is one of the Surveyors of the Navy. But the First Lord of the Admiralty was not of a disposition to join in with these melancholy ideas, without sifting them to the bottom; and after a very little investigation, he soon found that the scarcity arose from a combination among the Timber growers and Timber Merchants to keep up the price of their commodity, and from some other inferior causes, particularly the vast and unnecessary profusion of ship-building by the East India Company, who avowedly kept on foot upwards

of 16,850 tons of shipping more than their trade required, in order to secure their Election by the votes of the people employed by them in Shipbuilding.

To remedy these inconveniences, a Bill was brought into Parliament to restrain the East India Company [1] from building any more ships till their tonnage should be reduced to 45,000 for the space of three years.

The Bill was warmly contested by the Opposition and a reason given (in private conversation) by a leading Admiral now in Parliament for his opposition to the Bill was that if it passed Lord Sandwich would gain the credit of repairing the Fleet. However the Bill did pass and was attended with every good consequence that was expected from it.

In addition to this measure a door was opened for bringing more timber to market by giving an allowance for the carriage of timber, that by being too distant from the Dockyards could not be brought out by the Contractors at the price for which they agreed to supply the several yards. Add to this that large contracts were made for foreign Timber, and continued in force, till the timber merchants at home thought proper to desist from the combination, and no longer insisting that the timber of Great Britain was exhausted, agreed to furnish on reasonable terms whatever quantity we have occasion for; and there is at this moment, notwithstanding the immense consumption during the course of the war, full three years' stock in hand; whereas in the year 1771 there was not enough for one year, and in some of the yards, the men frequently remained idle, because they had no materials to work upon. These facts are illustrated by the accounts of the Timber in the several Dockyards in 1771 and at the present time, extracted from the books at the Navy Office, by which it will appear that the stock of timber in the year 1770 consisted of 11,813 and in 1781 of 38,742 Loads; which is about three years' consumption. It must then be allowed that Lord Sandwich set out at least with a disposition to repair the Navy. He also attended to the future duration of the Fleet by establishing a Regulation that all new built ships should lie a considerable time in their frames to season, before they were closed up; this Regulation however lasted but a very short period: for as soon as the horrors of War increased

[1] The Company had then 86 ships, in tonnage 61,800.

upon us, it was judged advisable to revoke the order for seasoning the Frames, and in 1778 orders were given to go on with the building as fast as possible, without paying any attention to the seasoning. It may not, however, be improper to observe that by the large stock of timber now in hand in the Dockyards, and by the erection of seasoning sheds, in all the Dockyards, by which means the timber is preserved from the weather and exposed to a thorough air; scarce any is now used but what is perfectly seasoned, as particular care is taken to make use of the oldest timber first.

So much for the state of the timber; let us now see what care has been taken to keep our other stores compleat; and to supply the want of several essential articles of which the American War has deprived us. Of large Masts (which are the most difficult to get) we have near three years' war consumption; of iron the same; of hemp (a perishable commodity) near two years' which is so much above the common stock that we have been obliged to hire Warehouses in London for upwards of 5,000 tons. And it is worthy to be observed that in July 1759 they had 728 tons of hemp in store, and in July 1781 4,732 tons; and contracts were made in 1759 for 6,000 tons, and in 1781 for 15,200: This is taken in the month of July, as that is the time when the contracts are usually made.

Of Tar and Pitch we have two years stock in hand, and of Norway Goods, such as smaller kinds of Masts, Oak Planks, Deal, Spars, etc., the same.

These comprehend all the material articles of foreign stores; and notwithstanding the very great difficulties in supplying such a stock, being, as has already been said, cut off from the usual supplies on which we formerly depended, yet such has been our attention to guard against untoward events that might have happened from want of cordiality from the Northern powers, that we have more than double the quantity now in our possession of every kind than ever was known in any former period.

The manufactured Stores in all the Yards are in equal proportions, and the East and West Indies and America, including upwards of 4,000 tons now loaded to keep up the supply, are sufficiently stored for two years.

This is not an exaggerated but a real state of our Stores, and as well as every other circumstance mentioned, will bear the

fullest test of examination. As far, therefore, as that principal and most essential part of the Naval equipment is concerned, namely the being supplied with a sufficient stock of Stores, no want of exertion on the part of the Admiralty can bear a question.

I shall now proceed to the proofs of exertion in almost every article of Naval business, and I trust with the same unanswerable demonstration. But before I proceed to proofs founded upon reasoning by comparison of what has been done in former times, I will mention one or two capital points, that are entirely new, which have been effected by the present Naval Administration.

Is the Coppering the whole Fleet of England no act of exertion ? In the year 1770 there were not above one or two Frigates coppered by way of experiment, and people in general doubted whether the experiment had answered, as it was generally supposed that the corrosive faculties of copper would have such an effect upon the Iron bolts by which the frames of the Ships are kept together, that it was dangerous to carry the measure farther than to some frigates ; and that it was necessary that those Frigates which were to be coppered should be fastened with copper instead of iron bolts. This measure accordingly was carried into execution for a time ; but the industry and superior knowledge of the present Comptroller of the Navy adopted and recommended a Preservative, well proved and attested to have answered every purpose for the space of nine years, which effectually preserves the fastening of the ships from the corrosion of the copper sheathing ; and upon that foundation the whole Fleet of England (except a very few ships that are not yet returned from foreign stations) from a first Rate to the smallest Cutter, has now a copper bottom ; and as a conclusive proof of our conviction on this subject, we have returned to iron bolts, and have in a great measure laid aside copper ones. It seems highly proper in this place to mention the number of ships that have been coppered since this Regulation took place, which are as follows :—

Line of Battleships	82
Of 50 Guns, ...	14
Frigates, from 44 to 20 guns, . .	115
Sloops and Cutters, ...	102

It is scarcely necessary to mention the immense advantages which in the present War have been derived from our being in

possession of this invaluable discovery: it has been called (I believe in the House of Commons) by an Admiral who is often mentioned, a bold measure; so it is, but it is a wise and successful one, and one that all other nations are imitating as fast as their means of procuring the materials will allow them to do it. If anyone doubts of the efficacy of copper, let him read the intercepted letters of Mons. de Grasse, who expressly says that he should have annihilated Admiral Hood's Fleet if it had not been for his ships being coppered, which enabled him to manœuvre as he thought proper, and take any advantage that wind or weather might give him to avoid an action if he judged it advisable so to do.

Perhaps measures taken by this suspected Admiralty may not be allowed as arguments, but I will mention them, Valeant quantum valere possint. When the combined Fleet to the number of 47 Sail of the Line were lately in the Channel, Admiral Darby was ordered to sail and find them out, and to keep sight of them and take advantage of any separation to attack them; this was a measure attended with no risque, because his 28 ships were all coppered, and I have no doubt but that if the enemy had not retired into port before he could get near them, some very signal event would have happened in our favour, as most of the Spanish Ships had been off the ground two or three years, and of course could not sail better than loaded colliers. The same idea prevailed in the last business of Admiral Kempenfelt's; he had every ship in England with him, except those destined for the East and West Indies, and two ships in the Downs, which could not at that time be spared from the service to which they were allotted, of watching the Dutch ships. He however fell in with a force infinitely superior, but by dint of copper was in no danger from them, and in the face of that superior force carried off a considerable part of their Convoy. What would have been said if this disgrace had happened to an English Convoy so superior? but it must have happened if the French had been coppered, and the English had had wooden bottoms.

The next new point of exertion that I shall mention is a matter very little known in the world, but is the only very material improvement that appears likely to be made, which will enable us to build and repair a much larger number of ships than could otherwise be built or repaired; and that is the establishment of

Task Work in His Majesty's Yards, which I will undertake to prove would save more than a third in dispatch, and more than double in the expense. I shall annex, as a proof of this, two articles of work to be done by the Day or Task Work, which need no comment. The Blenheim and Atlas of 98 guns each, the one building, the other undergoing a thorough repair at Chatham have been brought forwards at least eight months by means of Task work. I mention only these two ships; but all the business of the Task Work Yards have gone on in the same proportion, and there is not the least difficulty in proving these Premises at the Bar of the House of Commons. After this strange proposition being laid down, I shall, of course, be asked why this very desirable measure is not carried more fully into execution. My answer is that everything that can be done with discretion has been tried, but has failed with regard to the two Western Yards, namely Portsmouth and Plymouth.

Faction, Enthusiasm, Obstinacy, and Ignorance have kept the artificers of those Yards in direct opposition to work in that mode. In the year 1775, which was before we were involved in a war that required the assistance of every Shipwright in the Kingdom, Task work was nearly established in all the six Dockyards; but the causes already mentioned occasioned a general meeting in all of them except Deptford, which probably from being so immediately under the eye of the Navy Board, adhered to their duty and went on with Task Work. In the other yards, all the men (except a few who had apprentices and did not dare to desert on that account) laid down their tools and quitted their work. This fortunately happened at a time when no particular exertions were wanted; and we were enabled by this circumstance to set the men at defiance, and to leave them to shift for themselves for two or three months, till they were starved again into the Dockyards; but they then came under an express engagement that they should not be called to do Task Work without their consent. Since that period, by various managements, and pointing out to the men quietly the immense advantage the Task men had over those who worked by the day, the four Eastern Yards, namely Deptford, Woolwich, Chatham and Sheerness have been brought to adopt this plan, and are now eager in the execution of it. To explain the advantages which accrue to the workmen by being employed on Task, it is necessary

to state that in a common day's work, which consists of 12 hours, the Shipwright's pay is two shillings and a penny; if he works double tides (which generally happens for the greatest part of the year in time of extraordinary exertions) he is at work 17 hours and consequently earns four shillings and two pence. The Taskman works twelve hours only and at an average earns five shillings and three pence per day. As to Portsmouth and Plymouth, everything has been tried to bring them to reason; but it is dangerous at this moment to attempt coercive measures, for if the men in those two Yards were to lay down their tools for a month, our principal equipments for home or foreign service would be at a stand, the consequence of which at this critical period, it is unnecessary to expatiate upon.

This is a matter of so much magnitude that it may possibly occur that the interposition of the Legislature might be useful; but I own I think that would be a very dangerous experiment. In this country of Liberty, the idea of forcing people to work in a manner they dislike, would not be generally approved, and might occasion great uneasiness, possibly general commotion.

What has been now said upon the subjects of Coppering, Task Work and Increase of Stores, will show that some new exertions have been executed by the present Admiralty. I shall however mention one more circumstance upon this head, which is the endeavour which has been used to increase the number of Shipwrights in all the King's Yards. Nothing but the increase of working Shipwrights—both in the King's and Merchant's yards—can increase our shipbuilding. In the early part of the war, Purveyors were sent to the Out Ports to procure Shipwrights and circulate the information that the yards were open to all such able men as were willing to be employed in them. Publications have been continued from time to time in the neighbourhood of the Yards, inviting good workmen; and the Regulating Captains in different parts of the Kingdom written to on the same subject. The expenses of several have been paid from distant Ports, and the age for admission extended from 35 to 45, during the war; besides this, all those who have been dismissed from the Yards for small delinquencies have, upon their promising better behaviour, been readmitted; but all this goes a very little way towards procuring the number for whom we could find employment.

The next measure to be taken for augmenting the Shipwrights in the King's yards is by allowing a larger number of apprentices to the working men. But this scheme is slow in its operation, and though it augments the number of shipwrights at a distant day, does not promise any great addition of strength upon a sudden emergency. However, this nursery for shipwrights has been most carefully attended to, and since the year 1778, no less than 324 additional apprentices have been allowed in the several Dockyards, which amounts to [blank] Apprentices to each Shipwright, and farther than this the indulgence cannot be allowed without innumerable inconveniences.

Now having said what efforts have been made to put ourselves in a condition to forward the repairs and augmentation of the Fleet, let us examine what has been done in consequence of these efforts and whether it has exceeded or fallen short of the exertions of former times; and also whether anything has been omitted by the present Board of Admiralty to carry the effects of these judicious arrangements into full execution. And here we must begin to enter into comparative reasoning; for though it is not to be admitted as absolute proof, I must contend that it is a very strong presumption in answer to the present attack, if it should appear that much more has been done in this than could ever be reached in any former war.

The period in which the largest number of Line of Battle Ships have ever been employed during the late and present Reign, was in the year 1759, when it appears that 97 ships of the line were in commission. But it is to be considered that this number was in consequence of two victorious wars; and that at that period we had ten ships taken from the Enemy in our Line of Battle.

However these 97 ships were greatly inferior to what we had in commission in the beginning of the year 1780; for though the number then consisted of no more than 89, yet the size of the ships was so much increased, that the 97 was a very inferior force to the 89. To make up the list of the year 1759, you must include 29 ships of 80 guns; at present there are only five of that class of ships in commission. But the fact of our Fleet being greater now than in the year 1759 is to be proved by various other evidences; the first is, the different number of seamen now in pay from that of the year 1759; the next from

the different tonnage of the shipping at those periods. The whole number of seamen in actual pay on the 30th September 1759 were 88,477 ; on the same day in the year 1781, there were 99,831 ; and the men employed in the line of battleships at the same periods were in 1759 51,540 ; in 1781, 53,135. The tonnage of the line of battleships was at the former date 188,195, and in 1781 it was 250,430. Our number of line of battle ships in commission in November 1781 amounts to no more than 92, and it is very extraordinary that considering our immense losses by the late dreadful hurricanes and other misfortunes which seem to have persecuted us in every part of the globe, we should still have so many remaining. To illustrate this position I will not go further back than from the first of March 1780 to the 29th September 1781, during which time no less than six ships of the line in commission were irrecoverably lost and 17 others came home in so disabled a state that a considerable time must elapse before they can again be brought into service ; many of them probably never will. The names of these ships will be found in a list hereunto annexed. Had it not been for these calamities, it is a demonstration that our Naval force of the line would have been infinitely greater in numbers as well as in size in the year 1781 than in the year 1759 ; and nothing is more certain than that if we are not visited by any fresh hurricanes, or other calamity, we shall far exceed the number 97 in the year 1782, as we shall launch ten new ships during that period, and most probably bring forth as many old ones thoroughly repaired.

It is to be observed that we have hitherto been talking of Line of Battle Ships only ; but it is very deserving notice that our number of Frigates, which in this extensive war, are of equal importance, have increased near one fourth in number, and greatly in size. For it appears that in 1759, all the ships, great and small, in the King's pay, amounted to 305 ; the number now in pay is 405. From these premises, it is clearly demonstrated that our present Naval force is greater than in the preceding war. I will now proceed to consider what efforts have been used in the branch of ship-building, and whether our exertions have exceeded, or been behind those of former times. Something has already been said on this subject but Demonstration cannot be got at but by an accurate comparison. I must therefore state the number of

ships of the Line that were building in December 1759, and in 1781, and it will then be easy to draw the conclusion.

It appears from the weekly Progress Dec. 28th, 1759, which was (as has already been said) the year of the highest exertion in the last war, that the number of Ships of the Line then building both in the King's and Merchant's Yards amounted to 17. At the same time in 1781 they consisted of 37 ; in the year 1770 the number building was only 16. The Line of Battleships building in the river by Contract on the 30th December 1759 were three ; in 1781, seventeen.

By this statement it is evident that we have more than double the number of ships in hand, than we had at the height of the last war, and at the time when the present Board commenced its existence : therefore it is more than presumption that we have not been more negligent than our Predecessors in this important Article, either in time of war or peace, and that when our Administration began, whatever was done in the way of building was almost in its infancy. But I suppose I shall be told that though we have done twice as much as ever was done before, we might still have done more, and might have had more than 37 ships in hand at this moment, when the Fate of the British Empire is at stake.

The answer to this is that there is a Line beyond which the exertions of every country cannot go. We cannot, nor ever could do more than employ all the shipwrights that this country affords ; the Law does not allow compulsion upon any race of men but common Sailors, and if the trade of this country is to go on, the Merchants will, and always must give more money for ship-building than the Crown. The increase of wages without the increase of work in the Dockyards would be exactly so much money thrown away, as the Merchants would rise in proportion ; therefore according to my reasoning there is no possibility of alluring the men by profit, or getting them by compulsion, and it is on this account that no mode has yet been found out of extending our Naval construction but by making contracts with all responsible people, who have a capital sufficient, materials at hand, and a proper place to build in. For as to going on with building in the King's Yards (Chatham excepted, and Deptford and Woolwich in a small degree) it must always be nearly at a stand in time of war, on account of the constant employment of

the artificers in refitting the ships that come from sea, and fitting out those that are wanted for immediate service.

The question therefore is whether ships have been built by contract wherever there was a possibility of its being done ? To this I answer that the number now in hand compared with former times is a strong presumptive proof that every effort has been made on this head. But it will be proved positively that ships have been built in nine places at which none were set up in the last war ; and the Navy Board has as much knowledge of the coast of this Island, that they will know every place where a ship can be built, or a contract made that can be executed.

No place is proper for building ships of the line where there is not a Dock to receive them after they are launched, or in rivers with good water, open mouths and muddy bottoms, where they can lie in safety till put into a state to be brought into the King's Yards to be fitted for service. As a proof that there has been no omission with regard to enquiries where ships can be built, a list is annexed where the eight new places are named where ships are now in hand, and three places where Line of Battleships never were built before. We have even crossed the Tweed and set up a sloop at Leith, but we have received very little encouragement from this experiment, as the Sloop was delayed near a year beyond her time, waiting for materials from England, as will appear from the annexed letter from the person appointed by the Navy Board to superintend the building. It is to be observed likewise that ships built at a great distance from the Dockyards occasion vast delays and expense in getting their Stores to them, which must be sent from some of the established yards. However, as I have already said notwithstanding these inconveniences, ships have been set up wherever there was any prospect of the Contractors performing their engagements. Engaging persons to build, who are not equal to the undertaking, gains no ground, and is liable to every kind of abuse. When a Ship is contracted for, a considerable Imprest is made to the Builder, to the amount of the value of the ninth of the ship ; if he is not a man of credit and integrity, he will delay your business, and employ your money to other purposes, being secure of your work, which you cannot take out of his hands on account of the Imprest advanced, as appears to have been the case with the builder at Leith.

A gentleman some time ago thought proper to declare in the House of Commons that he knew places in the river where sixteen more Line of Battleships might be set up immediately. It happened that the very next day a Committee consisting of about ten of the principal Builders in the River attended the Board of Admiralty on some other business, as a Deputation from the whole Body; and being asked how many more line-of-battleships could be taken in hand soon, they all declared that there would be room for no more than two in the whole River, and those two are since contracted for.

It has been in the mouths of many persons not disposed to find fault that particular places named by them could build ships, and had no Contracts. This, I think, is already in the general idea, sufficiently answered; but I have heard the names of some of these places mentioned myself, particularly Woodbridge in Suffolk and Cromartie Bay in Scotland, in which latter place it is urged that there is a great stock of timber fit for ship-building. As for Wood-bridge, it has been tried and found an improper place; it is a Bar Harbour with only 14 feet and a half over the Bar at high, and only four at low water. The Kingfisher of 700 tons was built there in 1667, not equal to a 36 gun Frigate in tonnage; the using that place therefore has been discontinued for above one hundred years, not because it was unknown, but because it was judged an improper place to build in. As to building in Cromartie Bay, we have had so little encouragement from our first experiment in Scotland, and the delays and expense of building at so great a distance from the dockyards so enormous, that the Navy Board have not thought proper to make any farther enquiries in that part of the Kingdom; but if anyone will make an offer to contract there, or elsewhere, they will be attended to and treated with provided their proposals are such as can with propriety be adopted.

It has been asked why we did not set up Line of Battleships upon many of the slips where we now are building Frigates. To this (without entering into the question of the necessity of a large number of Frigates, which are wanted as much as larger ships) I must answer that every Builder who contracts for a line-of-battleship must build Frigates at the same time, in order to make use of his small timber, without which he could not go on. Besides, a slip that is fit for a Frigate will not do for a line

of battleship. It may also be asked whether the Builders in the River could not advance something in the time when they have contracted to launch the large Ships ? To this I answer that on the first probability of a War, when the contractors had not so many ships to build, Premiums have been given for shortening the time, and in some instances with success. But since that time, they have been so fully employed by the Navy Board that no encouragement could enable them to forward the work. The evading a Mulct is tantamount to a premium given, and yet there are few instances where we are not obliged to inflict the Mulct, on account of their not adhering to the time they engage to launch the ship. And it is to be farther observed that these Mulcts are invariably inflicted, and in no instance remitted ; and as the Quantum of the Mulct is agreed to be assigned by the Navy Board, no advantage can accrue to the Builder from making any unnecessary delay.

I will say one word more before I leave this question concerning the exertions in point of ship-building and fitting ships for sea. I must desire that it may be laid down as an uncontrovertible rule, that in time of war, you must take those ships first in hand that can be soonest got to sea ; for if you keep your hands employed upon ships that must take two or three years before they can be completed, you cannot work upon those that may be got ready in as many months ; therefore as I have already said, at Portsmouth and Plymouth little can be done in the building way, though much is effected in repairs and fitting ships for sea. This will be shown best in the List of ships that have been refitted in those yards during the last four years ; and this is exclusive of smaller works done on float in the Harbour and at Spithead, which always employ a very considerable number of shipwrights. I am firmly convinced that more work of this kind has been carried on in these Yards since the beginning of the present War and with more dispatch than ever was used since the Yards were first established. I will just beg to mention one recent example of dispatch of this sort and then perhaps it may be full time to conclude this part of our discussion.

When Admiral Parker came in after his encounter with the Dutch, his ships, consisting of seven two-deck ships, were miserably shattered in their hulls, masts yards and rigging, as will appear by the annexed state of their defects ; yet they were

compleatly masted, rigged and supplied with every necessary, and were not more than a month before they again went to sea. This could not have been done if we had not been attentive to every circumstance that might tend to forward our ships and obviate the delays that must otherwise attend the refitting them after gales of wind and general actions.

Made Masts, Bowsprits, lower Yards, and fitted Rigging (which in themselves are works of long time and much labour) have been provided at all the Yards. But for this circumstance, the squadron under Admiral Parker, after so long an action, requiring to shift almost every Mast, Yard, and Set of Rigging, could not possibly have been got to sea in so short a time, and which it will be found difficult to match in any period of former wars.

I flatter myself that what has now been said will be thought sufficient to prove that there is not the least foundation to suppose that there has been any want of exertion in augmenting our Fleet. But it remains to answer charges that will of course be brought of Misconduct in the military part of the business of this Office. These charges are not so easily answered, because there is no demonstrative evidence that the orders given have been right; the event certainly does not decide that question; but those who mean to find fault, wait the event, and then adopt whichever side of the question best suits their purpose. All therefore that can now be said is that the Orders of importance have always been fully considered and approved by the whole Cabinet, and it is to be hoped, were wisely calculated to answer the intended purposes.

It will be time enough to answer the military objections that may be brought when we hear what they are; and it is too wide a field to enter upon minutely, till some specific charges are made. The general topics of accusation, such as that the discipline of the Fleet is lost, and that the Officers have no confidence in the present Naval Administration, and therefore are negligent in the execution of their duty, can be answered only by a flat denial of the fact; and I do aver that no Naval Administration could be formed that would not have more of these difficulties to struggle with. Sea Officers are apt to be discontented if everything is not done according to their wishes; they are exceedingly jealous of one another, and ready to find fault with everybody's conduct

but their own ; yet they will do their duty, and I do not believe any instance could be produced where orders have been wilfully disobeyed under this Admiralty, or where a want of confidence has appeared on the part of the Officers employed, more than at any other period. To be sure Admiral Keppel, and all those who are connected with him, have no confidence in the Admiralty, nor the Admiralty in them, but their number is inconsiderable, and is daily diminishing ; and I own I can never think it for the good of this country to bring them forward to conduct the Naval Affairs ; and though I acknowledge there are some very good Officers, and very good men among them, they have suffered Politics to lead them so totally, that the good of the Service is a very secondary consideration with them. They have however great perseverance in bringing forward anything that conveys Censure upon the present Admiralty ; and this extended by the exertions of the whole Opposition and some indolence of some half-friends, works up some impressions that are only founded in imagination and are the invariable consequence of Factions in the State.

After what I have said I do not think it will be deemed injudicious (till I am called upon) to waive the discussion of any particular military points ; when I am informed what they are, I have no doubt of giving satisfactory answers to anything that these gentlemen can object to. I will here only desire to observe that they who are so ready to blame what they think has been omitted, never mention what has been done, and the measures which have been executed to the honour and advantage of this Country.

I have heard it whispered that the Admiralty has been blamed for not ordering formal enquiries to be made into the conduct of those who commanded in the several late indecisive actions at sea, by which I suppose is meant Sir George Rodney, Admirals Arbuthnot, Graves and Parker. Here perhaps I may differ from some of my best friends, but I cannot help owning that I have seen so much of the very fatal consequences that have happened from this sort of inquiries, that I am always averse to bringing them forward, except in very flagrant cases, or when a Charge is formally exhibited. If we were disposed to investigate the conduct of Sir George Rodney, and those who commanded under him, the consequences must have been that we must have divided

the Fleet in the West Indies into three different factions, Rodney, Rowley and Parker, and have summoned them, and most of the principal Officers under them to England, to give evidence in the trials that must have been instituted. The enormous expense that this would have occasioned is the best Article in this question; but the additional dissensions it would have made in the Fleet, and the having double Officers to the ships whose proper Commanders and inferior Officers must have been brought over as witnesses, would have occasioned such a confusion in the Service that, as a very able and respectable Officer told me (before the affair of Keppel and Palliser had gone to extremity) [it] would be of as fatal consequence to the Navy of Great Britain as a defeat from the enemy; and after all I am convinced that the issue of that Court Martial would have been an Acquittal of all parties.

The same thing may, I believe, be said with regard to the other indecisive actions, and I desire it may be remembered that no Official complaint has been made upon any of them, and that I have not long ago been abused for ordering a Court Martial, when a formal charge was laid before the Board from the Third in Command.

After having said this I will only add that in the present state of our Political system, and the weakness which I perceive in Government who, I think, can bring no enquiry into the conduct of their Generals or Admirals to fair impartial decision, it is most for the good of the whole to avoid Public inquiries unless, as I have already said, in very flagrant cases, or where a Charge is exhibited in form against the Person or Persons who are supposed to have misbehaved. Perhaps I may be in a mistake upon this point; but be that as it may, I shall ever maintain the opinion I have stated.

But to return from this digression; I beg that it may be remembered that we are now engaged in a War with the House of Bourbon closely united, and their Naval force unbroken (it's being unbroken was not the fault of the Admiralty) that these Powers have no Continental struggles to draw their attention, and to exhaust their finances, so that they are enabled to point the whole of their efforts to their Naval Department; that we are also at war with Holland and America, and that our peace with all the Northern powers hangs by a very slender thread; and yet during these two last campaigns notwithstanding our

inferiority of force, we have not been brought to disgrace. We have seen all our rich Baltic fleets, and our trade from the East and West Indies arrive in safety; we have at present an established superiority in the East Indies, where we have reason to expect great successes; we have obliged the Dutch to lay aside all their Fisheries, while ours, both in Europe and elsewhere have remained unmolested. We have effectually blocked the Port of Amsterdam during all the last summer, and had it not been for the subterfuge of Neutral Colours, and from our fear of disgusting the Northern Powers, not a ship could have got in or out of the Texel. We have taken possession of St. Eustatia, Demerary, and Essequibo, and under Commodore Johnstone, we have brought off the Dutch homeward bound ships from the Bay of Saldanha; we have twice relieved Gibraltar, and the last time forced the Fleet of Spain, though equal in numbers to ours, to retreat for refuge into Cadiz. We have kept the Channel open for the ingress and egress of our trade, except in the absence of the Fleet for the relief of Gibraltar, when the St. Eustatia fleet fell into the enemy's hands; and it is very certain that if the intended arrangement of the Admiralty had been successfully executed, which would have been the case if no sinister accident had interfered, we should have had an equal if not superior force to have contended for the possession of the Chesapeak. These exertions however meet with little attention, and because we have not done more than ought to have been expected from us, if we had been by a third superior to the enemy, we are supposed to have been negligent, or as some have said *treacherous*, because we have not conquered everywhere with a decided inferiority on our side. I own I think much more has been done than could have been expected, considering our losses by the hand of God, and the unnatural combinations against us among the Powers of Europe. Whatever may be the issue of this enquiry, I can put my hand upon my heart, and say that I have done my duty, with an honest intention, and to the best of my ability, and I have no doubt but that every impartial person (if such there is) will on cool and unprejudiced consideration and after having made himself master of the subject, allow me some farther degree of merit than I think it decent to arrogate to myself.

No. 3511—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

3rd February, 1782

I trouble Your Majesty with the Inclosed Warrants for your Royal Signature, as they are wanted.

I send Your Majesty also two Letters I received last night from St. Helena, giving an account of the Death of Lord Seaforth; of the Arrival of part of the Regiment there, and of the condition of it.

I understand that a great deal has passed between Lord North and the Lord Advocate, through Mr. Robinson, which, as I apprehend, Lord North has never communicated to Your Majesty, nor Mr. Robinson to me. The purport, as I am informed was that Lord George must be dismissed before the Lord Advocate would consent to come into the House of Commons, and I suspect that Mr. Robinson has consented to give up Lord George in order to save Lord Sandwich, for I am now told that the Lord Advocate will be satisfied with *one human sacrifice*. This is the Expression that was made use of. The whole Transaction is very strange and humiliating.

The Chancellor called on me yesterday; the conversation turned wholly on what is to pass in the House of Lords to-morrow.

My Election is not yet determined; as far however as I can judge, from Reports, things bear rather a favourable aspect.

From Your Majesty's dutyfull subject, C. Jenkinson.

Parlt. Street, *Febry.* 3*rd*, 1782. *m.* 20 *p.* 10.

No. 3512—*The Duke of Somerset to* [*Lord Hertford ?*]

M. Bradley, *Febry.* 4*th*, 1782

My dear Lord—A thousand thanks to Your Lordship for being so good to communicate to The King the exact situation I am in, in respect to the Small Pox; Who I am extremely obliged to for His great goodness and condescension, by His Indulgence: If I had taken the advice His Majesty was so good to give me about four or five and twenty years ago, I had done right; but now being in my 65th year, and having no views, it's

too late in the day for me ever to think of again entering into public Life.

As the American affairs may probably be debated in the House, I take it for granted, it will end as usual in a little wind music, which may cause you to take a dance from the fireplace below the Bar, and evaporate as usual. Would to God you had my Proxy in your Pocket !

I remain, with the greatest respect and esteem, my dear Lord, Your affectionate Cousin and truly obliged Servant,

SOMERSET.

P.S. I hope my cousin Robt. Conway has not been taken in by Ambrose Awdry ; who has taken in some scores in the neighbourhood of Seend.

No. 3513—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 404.

ST. JAMES'S, *Feby. 4th*, 1782
m. 35 *pt.* 3 P.M.

If Mr. Ellis should accept the American Seals, it will rather surprise me. Lord G. Germain has desired that any mark of favour I mean to grant him may precede his resignation, and that he may have three days' notice before the Seals are required from [him] which request I think very reasonable.

I am glad to find Saltash has concluded so well ; it does not make the conduct of the Bullers less reprehensible.

No. 3514—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 405.

After so tedious a Debate on Friday on the Ordnance Estimate, I expected on the Report it would be carried farther ; I am glad to find that business was finished at a reasonable hour last night.

WINDSOR, *Feby. 5th*, 1782. *m.* 3 *pt.* 9 A.M.

No. 3515—*Lord North to the King.*

[5 *February* 1782.]

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty that Mr. Ellis is ready to obey His Majesty's Commands upon any occasion; That he does not desire to make any condition, but expressed the same wish that Lord Hillsborough gave me a hint of,—That when he shall receive His Majesty's Commands to retire, he may be raised in dignity, and have his title granted in remainder to his nephew. Mr. Ellis however repeated very strongly that this was only a wish of his, and that he was very far from presuming to make any condition.

Lord North has just heard of the death of Lord Falmouth, and has the honour of reminding His Majesty of an application made some time ago by the Duke of Dorset to succeed upon a vacancy.

Lord Seaforth's death having vacated a Regiment of Highlanders, Lord North received yesterday evening the enclosed letter, which he takes the liberty of transmitting to Your Majesty. Lord North believes that another application of the same sort has gone to Lord Amherst.

Tuesday, ½ *pt.* 3.

No. 3516—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 405.

Windsor, *Feby. 5th,* 1782
m. 20 *pt.* 8 P.M.

So very proper conduct as that of Mr Ellis I fear is only to be found in men of the last Age; his request certainly is worthy of consideration: I hope his removing to the Secretary's Office of the American Department will not occasion any trouble to Lord North in the appointment of a Treasurer of the Navy; but I think it right to premise that if the Lord Advocate accepts it, I shall certainly not consent to his bearing his great Scotch office for life; I am clear that the trouble He has given this winter is not a reason for my rendering him independent, and great as his desires seem to be, the best English House of Commons

Office and one of Two thousand per annum in Scotland during pleasure are no small recompenses, let his merits be ever so great.

If the Office Lord Falmouth held is agreeable to the Duke of Dorset, I will very willingly confer it on him.

Lord North had best direct Mr. Ellis to ask an Audience to-morrow, when he may declare his willingness to accept the Seals, and I will to-morrow see what day will best suit the inclination of Lord G. Germain to resign, and know what title suits him best.

I shall see what applications are made for the Highland Regiment before I fix on a successor to Lord Seaforth, as I shall wish to take the man best qualified; Maclean I should think therefore has but a slender chance if merit is to decide!

No. 3517—*Lord North to the King.*

[9 *February* 1782]

Lord North thinks it his duty to inform His Majesty that from several persons acquainted with the State of the County of Inverness, he finds that it is apprehended that, upon the vacancy caused by the death of Lieutenant-General Frazer, the Duke of Gordon may be inclined to recommend his Brother, Lord George Gordon, and that the most likely means of preventing it would be to persuade the Duke to recommend Lord William, and to bring in for the Shire of Murray, Sir James Grant, Genl Grant, or some other of that family, whose interest, joined with the Duke's would entirely command that election.

If His Majesty would permit Lord William to hold the office of Vice Admiral of Scotland, his Seat would be vacated, and the family could not in that case refuse an arrangement to exclude Lord George, whose election would be very embarassing and mischievous.

That some complaint will be made by the Scotch Peers is probable, but Lord North has reason to think that it will not be general, and that several of them, considering the Nobility of Lord William's birth, would not deem it any ground for complaint.

Lord North hopes that His Majesty will excuse his inclosing a note which will show to His Majesty how earnest the family are that Lord William should hold the office in his own name, and which was written in consequence of Lord North's having

expressed a wish that the application might be made for the Duke of Gordon, and that His Grace might hold it for his brother, if His Majesty would consent to that appointment and arrangement.

Saturday morng. Feby. 9th, 1782

Enclosure.

Lady Irwin to Lord North.

My Lord—As Lord William tells me I did not express my meaning properly, I beg leave to assure you that the very meaning and drift and intention of my letter was, that Lord William should be appointed *himself* to the Place of Vice-Admiral, and I wish this to be fully explained to His Majesty, and I hope Your Lordship will express to His Majesty that by so doing he will confer a very particular and personal favour upon me.

I have the honour to be, My Lord, Your Lordship's most obedient humble servt, F. Irwin.

Stanhope Street. *Wednesday morning.* [6 *Feb.* 1782.]

No. 3518—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 407.

Queen's House, *Feby. 9th*, 1782
m. 43 *pt.* 6 P.M.

I should not be very sincere if I did not confess that I fear the appointment of Lord William Gordon to so dignified an office as Vice Admiral of Scotland will give well grounded disgust to the Peerage of Scotland, he not being one of them, and certainly his private character not being much in his favour: if Lord North can certify that the D. of Gordon will look on it in the same light as if given to him, that may a little paliate it. I cannot deem any Application of Ly. Irwin in his favour a title to a Scotch Employment; but before anything is done it will be right for Lord North to talk with Lords Hillsborough and Stormont, for if some attention is [not] shown to the House of Lords by proper communication before Offices usually held in that House are filled up, I fear my Service will not be benefitted by such inattention. The Lord Advocate, on the vacancy, wrote to Lord Stormont to desire Care might be taken in framing

the new Patent that the Deputy may not be nominated in future by the V. Admiral, as that officer decides not only Admiralty causes but other matters of moment. I have desired he will point out how this is to be done; this must therefore be notified to whoever get the Office that this change will be made. Lord North must acquaint Mr. Ellis to attend on Monday for the Seals.

No. 3519—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 408.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *Feby.* 11*th*, 1782
m. 53 *pt.* 9 A.M.

Lord North knows very well that I carefully avoid wishing to distress him for employments in favour of persons only attached to myself; it is from that view I have differed, ever pressing him in favour of my Librarian, Mr. Barnard, but I think an opportunity seems now to offer that will best suit my wishes in favour [of] him; an old Mr. Bowman is dead at Egham, who has held above 40 years sinecure employment of either Comptroller or Collector of the Customs at Bristol: his death cannot possibly have reached as yet the ears of any other Solicitor therefore I trust this will answer my intention for Mr. Barnard and be not inconvenient to Lord North.

No. 3520—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 408.

If Lord North has as yet taken no step towards acquainting the Bishop of Oxford that he is thought of for the Deanery of St. Paul's, I have reason to think it would be highly agreeable to the Lord Chancellor if that Preferment were conferred on his brother, the Bishop of Lincoln; indeed he expressed his wishes this day to me: but having previously spoke to Lord North concerning the Bishop of Oxford, I could not give any positive answer till acquainted what steps had been taken. I am certain the Chancellor will constantly apply till his brother is provided for. G. R.

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *Feby.* 17*th*, 1782. *m.* 43 *pt.* 9 P.M.

No. 3521—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

[The enclosure is wanting.]

ADMIRALTY. *Feb. 20th*, 1782

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to Your Majesty a state of the Division in the House of Lords; he has the honour also to inform Your Majesty that the answer that he has received from the Duke of Newcastle is everything that could be wished; Lord Lincoln will come to town on purpose to vote with us, and all the Duke's friends will be applied to this day, none of whom voted in the former Division.

Lord Sandwich has gone over the list of the House of Commons this morning with Mr Robinson, and he encloses a list of friends that were not present before, and who will certainly be there to-morrow. The Opposition will bring a large number but not near so many.

No. 3522—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 409.

LORD NORTH—I am sorry to find so many persons could view the conduct of the Navy in so very prejudiced a light as to swell the Minority so much last night; I trust they cannot have lost the feelings of Englishmen so much as to support the Motion of General Conway on Friday.

I understand poor Dr. Demainbray died at Richmond at ten o'clock yesterday. He held the Office of Surveyor of the East India Warehouse; this office would certainly answer my purpose for Mr. Barnard. I can rely on his diligence and that he would scrupulously attend the duty of his employment, considering how very good humouredly I gave up pressing for him on Monday, as Mr. Brydone seemed to be a personal wish of Lord North's; I am certain he will on the present occasion eagerly forward my inclination.

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *Febry. 21st*, 1782. *m.* 44 *pt.* 8 A.M.

[The six following letters were the outcome of a speech made by the Duke of Richmond in the House of Lords on the 31st of January concerning the execution of an American, Colonel Isaac Hayne, who had sworn allegiance to the King and accepted his commission, and had then suborned some of the troops in the King's service to desert. Rawdon, it seems, was not responsible for his execution, which had been decided in his absence, and tried to save him, though in vain. The Duke of Richmond's action was, indeed, entirely factious.]

No. 3523—*Lord Rawdon to the Duke of Richmond.*

Thursday noon, Feby. 21, 1782

My Lord—I am this moment arrived from Ireland, from whence I have been hastened by the illiberal advantage which you have taken of my absence. When I learned by the public papers that an enquiry into the execution of Isaac Hayne of South Carolina was moved for before the House of Lords, I feared that their Lordships would not find any materials to decide their opinions. But from the unspotted justice of that high Court of Honour, I rested secure that vague surmise and unsupported insinuations would not be permitted to affect the public character of a British Officer. The House, as I conjectured, have rejected the suspicion with disdain. It now rests with me to notice such personal injury towards my private reputation, as could not become the subject of their Lordships' animadversions. The expressions with which you, My Lord, introduced the motion, were as unnecessary to the business, as they are little reconcileable to the dignity of a Senator, the public spirit of a Citizen, or the candour of a Gentleman; of course I feel them fit objects for my resentment. I do therefore require that you, My Lord, shall make a public excuse, *in such manner and in such terms as I shall dictate*, for the scandalous imputation which you have thrown on my humanity, a quality which ought to be as dear in a soldier's estimation as valour itself. If Your Grace had rather abet your malignity with your sword, I shall rejoyce in bringing the matter to that issue. Besides the consideration of my own wrongs, I shall think myself the avenger of my Brother Officers in America, to whose security you have given an oblique attaint, by your affected fears for the consequences of General Green's proclamation.

(signed) Rawdon.

No. 3524—*The Duke of Richmond to Lord Rawdon.*

[*February* 21, 1782]

The Duke declines receiving the letter, as it is couched in terms which he thinks unjustifiable.

That as it was never his intention, so he firmly believes he made use of no expression that could possibly be misconstrued into a personal attack on Lord Rawdon. That he has no objection to referring to the Chancellor, for his recollection and opinion on the subject, and that if he can recollect any expression in the course of the debate that could be applied as injurious to the character of Lord Rawdon he will take an opportunity in his place, of disavowing such intention, provided Lord Rawdon desires the Duke to do so in more admissible language.

That Lord Rawdon has not specified any expression that is injurious to his character, consequently the Duke cannot at present give any other answer.

No. 3525—*Lord Rawdon to the Duke of Richmond.*

[*February* 21, 1782]

Lord Rawdon will not admit any one expression in his letter to be unjustifiable after the liberty which the Duke of Richmond has taken with his Character. It is not of any particular word made use of by the Duke that Lord R. complains, but Lord R. arraigns the general cast of the proceedings, which has publicly exposed him to the suspicion of wanton severity and abuse of Power. That the Duke of Richmond should get up in his place in the House, and disavow the idea of casting any the most distant insinuation upon Lord Rawdon's conduct, is the mode of excuse which Lord R. would require, But the terms (as the letter mentioned) must be dictated by Lord Rawdon.

Thursday, ten at night.

No. 3526—*The Duke of Richmond to Lord Rawdon.*

[*February* 22, 1782]

Lord Rawdon says that he will not admit any one expression in his letter to be unjustifiable after the liberty the Duke of

Richmond has taken with his character, but as the fact is that Lord Rawdon has been misinformed and the Duke of Richmond did not take any liberty with Lord Rawdon's character, and has declared so to Lord Ligonier, he must persist in thinking several of the expressions in Lord Rawdon's letter very unjustifiable.

Lord Rawdon says he does not complain of any particular word made use of by the Duke of Richmond, consequently the Duke of Richmond can have none to explain. But Lord Rawdon says he arraigns the general cast of the proceeding; this also the Duke of Richmond denies to have been in any degree personal to Lord Rawdon, which he took very particular pains to explain in the opening of that business. In proof of this assertion he has already expressed, and now repeats his willingness to refer it to the Chancellor (whose name has been mentioned as having possibly conceived it otherwise); or to any other unprejudiced Peer, whether the whole or any part of the Duke of Richmond's conduct had the least personality towards Lord Rawdon; and if contrary to his expectations anything of that nature can be imputed to him he will be very ready, as it never was his intention, to say so in his place, upon a desire from Lord Rawdon expressed in such terms as a man of honor can comply with. But a moment's reflection must satisfy Lord Rawdon that the Duke of Richmond cannot suffer himself to be dictated to by any man, and that such expressions can only serve to make it impossible for the Duke of Richmond to give Lord Rawdon the reasonable satisfaction he is otherwise of his own accord desirous of doing by disclaiming publicly any intentions of attacking Lord Rawdon's personal character, if any unprejudiced Peer who was present will say that there was the least occasion for supposing he had done so.

WHITEHALL, *Friday morning* 8 *o'clock*

No. 3527—*Lord Rawdon to the Duke of Richmond.*

[*Feb.* 22, 1782]

The Duke of Richmond forgets that Lord Rawdon does not *sollicit*, but *require*, satisfaction for a gross injury offered (it matters not whether through design or carelessness) to his

reputation. Were any reference necessary, the approved honour as well as the distinguished ability of the Chancellor would decide Lord Rawdon to submit the case to his opinion. But Lord Rawdon's feelings can alone determine whether any imputation may affect his character from the late proceedings of the Duke of Richmond. Lord Rawdon has left the Duke the only alternative his honour will allow. The excuse required is here subjoined. It is expected that it shall be delivered, in full house, by the Duke, in his place.

Friday 3 *afternoon.*

Enclosure.

" I find that my motion for the enquiry into the execution of Isaac Haynes, has been considered as provoking a suspicion against Lord Rawdon's justice and humanity. I solemnly protest that I did not conceive it could throw the most distant insinuation upon His Lordship's conduct; nor did I ever mean to say anything that could have that tendency. Since I learn that the matter is thought liable to bear a false construction, I declare that I am sorry to have introduced it—upon authority to which (at the time of making my Motion) I said I could affix no degree of credit."

No. 3528—*The Duke of Richmond to Lord Rawdon.*

Lord Rawdon having requested Lord Ligonier to demand from the Duke of Richmond a decisive option upon the alternative proposed in the first letter, adhered to in the second message, and again ultimately insisted on in the message of last night, General Conway has this morning signified to Lord Rawdon, on the part of the Duke of Richmond, his Grace's unqualified acquiescence in making the excuse as required by Lord Rawdon.

Saturday, Febry 23*rd, two o'clock, afternoon.*

No. 3529—*Lord North to the King.*

21*st February,* 1782

Lord North has the honour of enclosing to His Majesty a letter he has received to-day from Brummell. It is from Mr.

Partington in whose name the purchase of the Manor of Wingfield has been made. He wishes to know to whom His Majesty would have the purchase assigned. It was made in Mr. Partington's name as it was expected that the terms would be more reasonable than if it had been made in the name of any person who would be considered as a Trustee of His Majesty.

The appointment of Mr. Barnard is made out, and will be delivered to him as soon as His Majesty shall think proper to order it.

21 *February*, 5 *o'clock*, P.M.

Enclosure.

1,400 for 8 ninths of the Manor of Wingfield—and the timber on that Manor to be valued.

500 to put an end to all dispute respecting the timber on Swinley, which the seller insisted should be paid for, or that the purchaser should engage to try the question.

£1,900. 0. 0.

It now stands that the Purchase money is to be £1,900 for 8 9ths of the Manor of Wingfield, including the timber etc. in Swinley. But the timber on the Manor of Wingfield is to be valued and paid for over and above the £1,900. They have offered to settle this at £500, but having no idea what timber there is, this has not been acceded to.

No. 3530—*The King to Lord North.*

Queen's House, *Febry. 22nd*, 1782

Lord North is desired to direct Mr. Partington to assign the purchase to Lord Brudenel by which means I can see that a proper Gamekeeper be always appointed to secure the Game, and I hope by this means many irregularities will be prevented, for which there are now no means of redress but by the Forest Laws which are so severe that its impossible to put them in force.

Dr. Demainbray certainly died on Wednesday. Lord North may therefore have the Appointment of Mr. Barnard prepared whenever he now pleases.

No. 3531—*Lord North to the King.*

[24 *February*, 1782]

Lord North humbly intreats His Majesty's pardon for not having paid his duty this morning at St. James's, but he has been detained at home all day preparing for the business of to-morrow, viz., proposing to the House of Commons the terms of the Loan.

The fixing of the terms took up the whole of yesterday morning, Mr. Ellis, Mr. Jenkinson, the Lord Advocate, Mr. Jackson with the Governor and Deputy Governor of the Bank were present. There were two sets of gentlemen who offered to undertake the Loan. Lord North has the honour of inclosing the two propositions with the valuation of them; No. 1 was offered by a number of reputable Bankers, who complained that the Loan was to be put entirely into other hands. No. 2 was the proposal of Messrs Drummonds, Messrs Child and Dent, Mrs [*sic*] Thornton and Cornwall, Sir Charles Raymond and Mr. Henley, Messrs Mures and Atkinson, Messrs Gurnett, Harman & Co., Messrs Coutts and Mr. Payne, who were the persons who first undertook to propose for the whole of the subscription. The latter appeared so much the cheaper of the two, that it was adopted by the general voice of all present, who were likewise of opinion that it was better to accept of those terms, than to risk an open subscription at the Bank. Lord North will not be able to open his taxes till Monday next, as they must not only be very large, but of various kinds to raise the sum required, viz *£793,125*.

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty that Mr. Demainbray was in possession of another office, under the Secretaryship of the India Warehouses. The name of it was *Inspector of the delivery of all unrated E. India Goods.* Lord North believes this office is but small, and as it was not mentioned by His Majesty, Lord North does not know whether His Majesty intends that Mr Barnard should succeed to it, but it will not be disposed of till Lord North knows His Majesty's pleasure.

Dr Demainbray was likewise Examiner of the Out Port Books, which Lord North believes to be the least valuable of the three places, and is a place of business, which if executed by a Deputy leaves, as Lord North has been informed, no very considerable income to the Principal.

Undated, but enclosed in a slip of paper, on which the King has written

Ld North. Rd. Feb. 24th, 1782 near 12 at night, explaining the loan.

Enclosure.

No. 1

Proposal of terms for advancing to Government £13,500,000 for the service of 1782.

by a number of considerable Bankers.

		£	s.	d.
125 3 per cents .	@ 54 per ct. . . .	67	10	0
55 4 per cents .	@ 67 per ct. . . .	36	17	0
Four Lottery tickets for £1,000		.	18	9
For every £100 . . .		105	5	9

Premium computed, £5. 5s. 9d. per ct.
Annuity £5. 19s. 0d.

Enclosure.

No. 2

Proposal of terms for advancing to Government £13,500,000 for the service of the year 1782, by Messrs Drummond and others

		£	s.	d.
100 3 per cents .	@ 54 per ct. . . .	£54	0	0
50 4 per cents .	@ 67 per ct. . . .	33	10	0
Annuity for 78 years, 17s. 6d. at 15 yrs & ½ .		13	11	3
Three Lottery Tickets to every £1000 . . .		.	18	9
For £100		102	0	0

Premium compd. 2 per cent. Annuity £5. 17. 6.

N.B. Some restrictions are to be enacted for checking the gaming in the Lotterys.

No. 3532—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 410.

I did not in the least expect Lord North yesterday as it was very natural to conjecture that He must be detained at home in preparing for laying this day before the House of Commons the terms of the Loan; besides though Lord North is remarkably clear in stating matters of finance, yet the two small papers he has sent me are undoubtedly an easier method of having explained than any conversation; the bargain will undoubtedly to the Nation do him great credit and two sets of gentlemen having offered to raise £13,500,000 equally men of substance, shews the Wealth of the Kingdom.

I certainly had no wish that Mr. Barnard should have more of the places of Dr. Demainbray than the best which I take to be the Surveyorship of the East India Warehouses; the other two offices therefore are undoubtedly out of the question.

Queen's House. *Feby.* 25, 1782. *m.* 15 *pt.* 9 A.M.

No. 3533—*Lord North to the King.*

[*Monday*, 25 *February*, 1782.]

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty that the Loan has been voted to-day in the Committee of Ways and Means after some debate but without a division.

General Conway gave notice of another American Motion for Wednesday, and Lord North, from everything he is able to learn, is much afraid that the General has too fair a prospect of success. Lord North will endeavour to learn the Motion if he can, and will take every means to secure an attendance, but he is apprehensive, that many persons whom he may send for may vote against him, so little can he depend upon the House in any question of that nature.

Downing Street, *Feby.* 25, 1782. ½ *pt.* 9 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3534—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 411.

WINDSOR, [*Tuesday*] *Febry. 26th*, 1782
m. 30 *pt.* 8 A.M.

I am glad to find the House of Commons voted yesterday in the Committee of Ways and Means the Loan, which bargain has certainly been made on terms that do great credit to Lord North; I have not the smallest doubt that he will use every exertion to obtain a good attendance to-morrow, and indeed I equally believe he did so on Friday last; undoubtedly the House of Commons seem to be so wild at present, and to be running on to ruin that no Man can answer for the event of any question. I certainly till drove to the Wall do what I can to save the Empire, and if I do not succeed I will at least have the self-approbation of having done my Duty and not letting myself be a tool in the Destruction of the Honour of the Country.

No. 3535—*Lord North to the King.*

[*Thursday*, 28 *February* 1782]

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty with the utmost concern, that Mr. Conway's Motion has been carried by a majority of nineteen. The Lord Advocate, the Attorney and Solicitor General assisted Lord North very zealously in opposing it, but the turn and the temper of the House was so strong that nothing could resist it. Mr. Conway afterwards moved to carry up the Resolution to His Majesty by an Address attended by the whole House, and will come up to His Majesty on the day that it is thought proper to appoint.

Ayes for postponing the Motion, . .	215
Noes for the Motion, ...	234

Lord North submits to His Majesty's consideration that as the House of Commons seems now to have withdrawn their confidence from Lord North, it will be right to see, as soon as possible what other system can be found. Perhaps in this

moment it may be feasable to divide the Opposition, and to take in only a part, but some step of that sort appears to Lord North almost absolutely necessary.

Ld North, Feb. 28, 1782. 2 A.M.

Endorsed by the King in pencil.

No. 3536—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 411.

Lord North cannot be surprised at my being much hurt at the success of Mr. Conway's Motion, though in some degree prepared by what He said yesterday : an Answer must be given when the House of Commons bring it up ; it is highly delicate to find any words not liable to the greatest objections, Ld. North will therefore certainly wish to have the opinion of all the Ministers on the wording of it, wherefore the House cannot be received till to-morrow.

I am mortified Lord North thinks he cannot now remain in office, I hope I shall see him after the Drawing Room that I may explain my mind to him.

Queen's House,

Feby. 28th, 1782. m. 20 pt. 11 A.M.

Draft.

No. 3537—*The King to Lord North.*

The very extraordinary Resolution carried by the Opposition last night having obliged Lord North to notify to Me that He thinks it impossible He can be any longer of utility to Me and the Nation in his present situation, I think it proper to authorize the Lord Chancellor to sound Ld Gower and Ld Weymouth whether in conjunction with him they cannot form an Administration with such others of any party they may think right to recommend ; the basis of Public Measures being founded on keeping what is in our present possession in North America, and attempting by a Negotiation with any separate Provinces

or even Districts to detach them from France, even upon any Plan of their own, provided they remain seperate States. G. R.

Feby. 28th, 1782.

No. 3538—*Lord Dartmouth to the King.*

Sir—I have found myself for some days past so little able to attend to business, that I wished to go into the Country this morning for a day or two, and should have trusted to Your Majesty's goodness, which I have so often experienced, if I could resolve at a time like this, to absent myself for a moment, without Your Majesty's express permission.

I am, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subject and servant Dartmouth.

St. James's Square. *Thursday*, 28 *Feb.* 1782

No. 3539—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty that Mr. Conway made two Motions to-day in the House of Commons; one to return thanks to His Majesty for his answer, and the other declaring all those enemies of their country who should advise, or in any way attempt to prosecute an offensive War in America for the purpose of reducing the Colonies to obedience by force. The first Motion passed Nemine Contradicente; the Second, without a division.

Monday, Mar. 4th. ¾ *pt.* 8 P.M.

No. 3540—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 412.

By the Intelligence Lord North sent last night I fear some disaster has befallen St. Christopher's. It will be right not to mention it, as it is as yet but vague.

Queen's House *March 4th*, 1782. *m.* 20 *pt.* 8 A.M.

No. 3541—*Lord North to the King.*

[5 *Mar.* 1782]

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty that the House has given leave to him [to bring] in the Attorney General's Bill for enabling His Majesty to conclude a truce or peace with the revolted Colonies in America. There was a good deal of debate or rather altercation, but it did not relate to the bill, which was not opposed.

Tuesday evening.

No. 3542—*Lord Chancellor Thurlow to the King.*

[6 *March*, 1782]

Sir—Not having had Your Majesty's permission to mention the papers to Lord Shelburne, which Your Majesty commanded me to peruse, I could only embark in the conversation with Him, as he opened it; which was indeed the same in effect as Your Majesty's communication.

The Question about the patronage is closed by what Your Majesty said to Lord Shelburne; and the form of the answer to be given to the present importunities is all which seems left. And indeed, if the first step were now to be taken, in my judgement, it could not have been taken more prudently.

Lord Shelburne will mention to Your Majesty some words, which were thought of yesterday. They are short; but except that merit, they certainly omit many things which Your Majesty's paper alludes to very materially. I have taken the freedom to submit to Your Majesty the alteration of one passage; for two reasons,—first, doubting whether giving so accidental a reason for the preference of Lord Shelburne be necessary or useful, as things stand; secondly, whether insisting so particularly on his want of connection may not enable any person, who may wish to misrepresent, to give it the air of aiming at a disunion.

It is extremely difficult to put into writing all the little observations which occur on such an occasion as this. The utmost is to state the general ideas.

1. It was Your Majesty's purpose to form an Administration on a wide Basis; for the sake of comprehending the most respectable men of Talents and rank, without reference to the connections they had previously been engaged in; and to unite them, upon publick ground, in the service of their Country, in a perilous moment. This seemed to promise at once the greatest publick utility, and most general satisfaction.

2. If the plan recommended by Lord Shelburne was not so wide as these objects seemed to require, it provided at least a quicker union of sentiments; a circumstance of the last importance in the present situation of things.

3. The publick ground seems the article in which *that* is most important, and most to be expected from Persons of Their Rank and Character, who took up the publick service for public motives.

All this and more Your Majesty has expressed in an easier manner by your narrative of the proceedings.

I am, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful subject and faithful servant, THURLOW.

Endorsed by the King,

Ld. Chancellor, March 6th, 1782.

No. 3543—*Mr Jenkinson to the King.*

[6 *March*, 1782]

I saw Lord North this evening and talked with him on the present state of things in the manner Your Majesty was pleased to approve; and I told him that what I said to him [was] with the knowledge and by the permission of Your Majesty. I thought he was in a strange humour; he talked much of the Impossibility of going on, and said that he had constantly since Wednesday given this as his opinion to Your Majesty; He said that the Chancellour was a fitter person to negotiate with Lords Gower and Weymouth than himself; that the Chancellour was well with Opposition; that he thought that something had been going on with the Duke of Grafton, for which reason he had not taken any steps himself, but now he knew Your Majesty's

wishes, he would think of what I had said, and talk with Your Majesty upon it to-morrow.

He talk'd once of the propriety of Your Majesty's seeing the Duke of Grafton, who, he said, was the most temperate of all the Opposition, but I don't think that he will advise it. He did not think that Lord How would accept and He appeared more disposed to see Lord Weymouth than Lord Gower. He was by no means thankful for the good offices I was endeavouring to render him and was barely civil. Notwithstanding all he has said or may say to-morrow, I am persuaded that he means to go on, and that he was piqued at the Chancellour's being sent for on Thursday last, though he now says that he is the fittest person to negotiate. I talkd very roundly to him when I saw He grew unreasonable, and I am persuaded that it will be the best way of treating him to-morrow, though much is to be forgiven in consideration of the Load that at present oppresses Him.

I will take care that this shall be delivered to Your Majesty early to-morrow morning. I will come to the Drawing Room, but do not mean to trouble Your Majesty with an Audience for fear of creating Jealousies and suspicions.

From Your Majesty's Dutyful subject, C. Jenkinson.

I think that Lord North was so far pleased with the Conversation that I had with him, as it tended to put into his hands any future Negotiation. I found him consulting with Lord Advocate and Governor Johnson, which does not look like resignation.

Mr Jenkinson. Recd March 7th, 1782. 7 o'clock A.M.
Endorsed by the King.

No. 3544—*Mr Jenkinson to the King.*

I have heard nothing in the course of to-day worthy of the Information of Your Majesty, but that Mr. Rigby in consequence of the Authority given him by Lord North has seen Lord Weymouth and Lord Gower. The first was not disposed to do anything, saying he had not of late had much connection with the Duke of Grafton; but Lord Gower readily undertook the

Commission and was to see the Duke this night: but I am uninformed of what has passed between them.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject, C. JENKINSON.

PARLT. STREET. *March 7th*, 11 *o'clock* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3545—*Lord North to the King.*

[The enclosure is wanting.]

DOWNING STREET. *Friday* A.M.
March 8th, 1782

SIR—Mr. Rigby has just brought me word that Lord Gower had a meeting yesterday with the Duke of Grafton and passed above an hour with him conversing upon the subject on which Your Majesty wished to have the Duke's opinion. The result of their conference is:

"That, with every inclination and desire to promote Your Majesty's service, they are obliged to declare that it is not in their power to undertake to form, or to recommend any plan of administration to Your Majesty."

Your Majesty will understand that by "any plan of administration" I mean "any set of Ministers."

The Duke of Grafton expressed his disapprobation of the violent language used by some of the most violent of the Opposition, but did not think himself qualified to take the lead in forming any political arrangement. Indeed, Sir, I am afraid it will be very difficult to form a mixed system, and I am perfectly convinced that, whatever may be the event of to-day, the present Ministry will not go on.

The Chancellor is held in such high estimation by the Opposition that I should think him the most proper member of the Cabinet to set anything on foot with Lord Rockingham's party. If Lord Shelburne should be averse to coming in with them, which some of his friends think probable, Lord Chancellor will be at the [wish ?] of Lord Rockingham's friends, continued in office, and will oppose a firm barrier against any dangerous popular measures, which I am convinced the greater part of Lord Rockingham's party object to, as much as the Chancellor

himself, and will be glad of his weight, opinion and authority to resist any persons who may wish to carry such measures into execution.

Lord John Cavendish who is more in the confidence of Lord Rockingham than any other person, has always openly declared his dislike to measures of such a nature, and will be a very proper person to open a negotiation with, if such a negotiation is approved.

I have just received the inclosed from Admiral Barrington, and have the honour of transmitting it to Your Majesty, for your perusal.

I beg leave to subscribe myself, Your Majesty's most dutiful and most devoted subject and servant NORTH.

No. 3546—*Lord North to the King.*

[9 *March*, 1782]

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty that Lord John Cavendish having moved a Question of Fact, which was to be followed by two others of the same nature, and to conclude with a fourth, declaring that the calamities and expense of the times had proceeded from want of foresight and ability in the Ministers, Mr. Jenkinson moved for the Orders of the Day to be read, which after a very long debate was carried by a majority of ten.

Ayes,	226
Noes	216

It was moved by the Opposition that they meant by their Motions to remove, in as little offensive a manner as possible all the administration. This was likewise understood by the friends of Government, so that the question was, in fact, whether the Ministry should be immediately removed or not, and yet they were saved only by ten votes.

After such division, Lord North is obliged to repeat his opinion that it is totally impossible for the present Ministry to conduct His Majesty's business any longer.

Saturday morn, 3 *o'clock.*

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3547—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 413.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *March 9th*, 1782
m. 50 *pt.* 6 A.M.

Lord North may easily conceive that I am much hurt at the appearance of yesterday in the House of Commons, and at His opinion that it is totally impossible for the present Ministry to continue to conduct publick business any longer: this leads so much after the trials I have made of late to my taking so decisive a step that I certainly must maturely deliberate before I can return any answer.

Two copies, both in the King's hand, one endorsed
Draft to Lord North.

No. 3548—*The King to Lord North.*

I mentioned to the Lord Chancellor this day the extraordinary application of Lord Walsingham for the Comptroller's Wand, though he might but hold it for a few weeks; who strongly expressed and I think with very solid reason the impropriety of acquiescing to this whilst any Negotiation is to be undertaken. I therefore desire Lord North will not encourage this application.

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *March 10th*, 1782. *m.* 25 *pt.* 5 P.M.

No. 3549—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 414.

WINDSOR. *March 12th*, 1782
m. 55 *pt.* 7 A.M.

It was very natural to expect that some of the Taxes from public and local interests would meet with objection; for it seems scarcely possible to devise any new ones not liable to it; consequently the opening of them seems to have been as favourable as could have been supposed.

No. 3550—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY, *March* 12*th*, 1782

Lord Sandwich has the honour to send to Your Majesty the dispatches and private letters received by the Tysiphone, they would have been sent sooner if it had not been necessary to detain them in order to extract the parts that must be published in this night's Gazette.

Your Majesty will undoubtedly observe that Sir Samuel Hood's private letter to Lord Sandwich of the 8th of February is very equivocally expressed, and might bear the interpretation that Brimstone Hill had surrendered; but upon questioning Captain Stanhope, who did not leave St. Kitts till the 9th, the best information he can give is, that he understood that signals were agreed upon between General Fraser and the Admiral, in order to ascertain the losses the Garrison had suffered, and that by the signals made it was understood that they had lost about 100 men.

If Sir Samuel Hood on the 8th had believed that the place was taken, he would certainly have written officially upon that subject.

Your Majesty will recollect that Sir George Rodney was within 60 leagues of Cape Finisterre on the 19th of January so that there is reason to believe he must form a speedy junction with Sir Samuel Hood.

No. 3551—*Lord Chancellor Thurlow to the King.*

13 *March*, 1782

SIR—I saw Lord Rockingham last night, and, in conversation with Him, I took upon me to know that it was Your Majesty's wish to form an Administration, upon a broad bottom and publick views, if Your Majesty could be assured, that those who stood in a situation to be called upon for that purpose were ready to acceed with the same dispositions; intimating withal, that it was natural for Your Majesty to expect that some such assurances should be held out by Them, before Your Majesty could be expected to call upon them with that confidence which would be

due to the occasion. As this was the first opening of the Conversation, I saw it was impossible to expect, and unreasonable to urge, an immediate answer: and I desired he would take time to consider of it, meaning to see him again to-day. The Death of my Brother and a feverish disorder made it rather painful to do that. But I shall write to Him immediately, to see Him either to-night, or to-morrow morning. After which, if Your Majesty will give me leave, I will wait upon Your Majesty at the Queen's House. I did not presume to break in upon Your Majesty to-day, only to communicate so little as I have now to impart. But if it is Your Majesty's Pleasure to see me to-night, I shall keep myself in readiness to obey Your Majesty's Commands at a moment's warning.

I am, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful subject and faithful servant, THURLOW.

No. 3552—*Lord Hertford to the King.*

13 *March*, 1782

SIRE—At a moment when I see your Closet occupied in a way I cannot wish for your ease, I am afraid to approach it, and I therefore presume though very reluctantly to submit to Your Majesty in this manner, and with the utmost deference and submission the case of my son Edward, whom Your Majesty has been graciously pleased to take under your protection.

Your Majesty had been so good, at the instance of Lord North, to consent to his having the living of Randlesham in Suffolk, and upon a letter of Lord A. Hamilton's which you was pleased to show me, Your Majesty was induced to express an inclination that Lord North should make a compensation to my son before he gave up his pretensions to the Living. That compensation, under Your Majesty's countenance, I have been as strongly solliciting as I could with decency and propriety ever since, but though many instances have occurred since the Living has been so circumstanced, without success: and I am at last bound to say, in justice to a son, that I seem as far or farther from the object than ever.

In this situation, forgive, Sire, an humble servant for bringing into your recollection a matter of so small moment. Was it an

interest merely personal to myself, I should not trouble Your Majesty upon it. As a Father, you will, I hope, forgive me for taking the liberty in favour of a son who has every merit in that respect, and by whose influence I suppose he was induced to undertake the profession he is in. The living has been vacant a considerable time, but I am far from wishing to have it if it is not your pleasure. The state of Your Majesty's wishes I am unacquainted with, or I should not trouble you with a word upon it.

If Your Majesty spoke with indifference about it, simply with a gracious view of satisfying every person concerned in the transaction, I am sorry to find a disappointment will arise except Your Majesty is pleased to interpose with your authority. My son must think himself fortunate in adopting any line you shall please to direct about the Living, either to Lord North or to myself, and permit me simply to add to the trouble I have presumed to give Your Majesty, my expressions of attachment on all occasions: Your Majesty's pleasure will make my submission ready and active and with those sentiments I hope to be forgiven for stating as I have now done, the circumstances under which the living of Randlesham still stands.

I have the honour to remain, with the utmost duty and respect, Sire, Your Majesty's most faithful and most devoted servant, HERTFORD.

GROSR. STREET, *March 13th*, 1782

No. 3553—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I have heard nothing of the particular transactions of the Chancellour: I hear however that His language is firm and manly, as it ought to be. I am told that Lord Weymouth is for a Negotiation with the Rockinghams, and wants for himself a quiet Place; Lord Gower is said to incline more to another quarter, and seems to wish for Authority and Power. Mr. Rigby is as usual very timid, and wants to give everything up to the Rockinghams, but like all timid men, he frequently changes his opinions, as he did yesterday upon a conversation with Mr. Robinson: The Advocate is too apt to incline to the sentiments of Mr. Rigby. Lord North is very anxious for some permanent

Provision, but gives up all thoughts of continuing in Administration. Mr. Robinson thinks that we shall have a better Majority on Friday next than we had the last. I thought it right to give Your Majesty this account of the State of Things, as far as I am informed of them, that Your Majesty may be apprized of them before you see any one to-day. I have just heard that the Chancellour had yesterday long conferences with the Duke of Richmond and Mr. Chas. Fox in the House of Lords.

I hope that Your Majesty's health is mended.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject, C. JENKINSON.

PARLT. STREET, *March* 13*th*, 1782. 10 A.M.

No. 3554—*The King to Lord Chancellor Thurlow.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *March* 13*th*, 1782
m. 32 *pt.* 6 P.M.

MY LORD—I am sorry any event has arisen in Your family to give You pain, and that it is attended with a feverish disorder : I cannot have the indiscression therefore to desire you to come here, till You have received information sufficient to make You wish to report it to me. Whenever You notify that to Me, you may depend on my fixing the earliest convenient time.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3555—*The King to Mr. Jenkinson.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *March* 13*th*, 1782
m. 46 *pt.* 10 P.M.

Mr. Jenkinson's desire to see my mind at ease makes him, I am certain, anxious to know how matters stand : I have received this evening the enclosed letter (*see* No. 3551) from the Chancellor which makes me expect the Negotiation, from being begun in the most hostile quarter cannot but come in such a shape as that it must prove abortive : He will see my answer is of the most cautious kind, which from expecting but evil I thought the more necessary. I shall certainly, when the Chancellor comes to me,

remind him that my language went to a broad bottom, not the delivering myself up to a Party, and I am certain the quarter mentioned cannot have one single liberal idea.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3556—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

The very great anxiety I feel on account of Your Majesty's present situation has deprived me for several Nights of my rest; I was gone therefore to bed before Your Majesty's Packet of last night arrived. I perused it however immediately, but did not think it proper to return it to Your Majesty till this morning, least I should disturb your repose.

I am impressed with the highest sense of gratitude at Your Majesty's Gracious Condescension in communicating to me the Chancellour's letter and the answer which Your Majesty was pleased to return to it. I am sorry that the Negotiation has begun in so hostile a quarter, and I see thereby that Mr. Rigby's advice has prevailed, for this was not I am sure the Chancellour's first idea. His Lordship's letter contains little more than the formal Proposition which he made, but it is impossible to suppose that many other things must not have passed between Him and the principal persons of Opposition in the Conversations He has had with them, and I conclude that He will communicate to Your Majesty as much of all this, as may be proper, whenever he waits on You, for it is from this alone that it will be possible to form a Judgement of the Views and Intentions of Opposition, and I have no doubt that His Lordship's Language in the Conference He had with Lord Rockingham was firm, and such as becomes a Person intrusted with the maintenance of Your Majesty's Authority. Your Majesty's answer to the Chancellour is very gracious and very discreet.

I intend to pay my duty to-day to Your Majesty at St. James's, when I shall probably have many things to communicate to Your Majesty. If Your Majesty sees the Chancellour before I wait on You, I hope you will treat him with the utmost Kindness and Attention.

May the Almighty keep Your Majesty in his Protection, and

deliver You from the troubles that surround You, is the fervent Prayer of Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject, C. JENKINSON.

PARLT. STREET, *March 14th. m. 9 pt. 7.*

No. 3557—*Lord Chancellor Thurlow to the King.*

Thursday 14 *March*, [1782]
15 *min. after* 3 P.M.

SIR—I have seen Lord Rockingham this morning at 12, and I humbly beg Your Majesty's leave to wait upon Your Majesty at any time this evening, that Your Majesty will be pleased to appoint. May I presume to ask Your Majesty's leave to come undressed ?

I am, Sir, with perfect duty, Your Majesty's most faithful subject and servant, THURLOW.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3558—*The King to Lord Chancellor Thurlow.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *March 14th*, 1782
m. 35 pt. 5 P.M.

MY LORD—I shall be ready to receive you as early after seven this evening as may be convenient to You : I desire You will come undressed. By your not mentioning your health I hope the feverish disorder is quite removed.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3559—*Lord Hillsborough to the King.*

Lord Hillsborough humbly asks Your Majesty's pardon for having postponed the private letter Your Majesty was pleased to command him to write yesterday to the Lord Lieutenant in relation to Ireland being inserted in the Marine Mutiny Bill, but the papers which he has now the honour to send to Your Majesty, and which arrived late last night, induced him to think it would be best to mention the whole of the subject together, especially

as the Parliament of Ireland is adjourned. If Your Majesty thinks proper, Lord Hillsborough will lay the Lord Lieutenant's Dispatches before the Cabinet to-day; they appear to be of the utmost importance, and to require the most mature and at the same time the most speedy consideration, and that Lord Chancellor may be as well informed as time will permit, Lord Hillsborough proposes to send them to His Lordship as soon as they shall be returned from Your Majesty.

HANOVER SQUARE. *Saturday 16th March*, 1782
m. 35 *past* 7 A.M.

No. 3560—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

I trouble Your Majesty with a Letter and Paper which I have just received from Mr. Robinson, containing his observations on the State of Numbers in the House of Commons: I wish it afforded a more favourable prospect of the Dispositions of the Members of it. I shall continue in town that I may have an opportunity of observing all that passes, and be able to render every service in my power.

From Your Majesty's dutyfull subject, C. JENKINSON.

PARLT. STREET. *March 16th*, 1782. ½ *past* 3.

Enclosure.

[16 *March*, 1782]

MY DEAR SIR—In order that you may judge a little of the State of Things, which I am very sorry to say I see very bad I send you the inclosed sketch of the House last night, drawn, out hastily this morning, until I can go through the whole more correctly. The Rats were very bad; I fear they will increase before Wednesday, when Mr. Fox has given notice they will again attack. I shall get down to the Treasury as fast as possible, and I will then continue to see you somehow or other as soon as I anyways can.

I am Ever, Altho' in very great haste, Yours ever most faithfully, JOHN ROBINSON.

Saturday morning.

15 March 1782

Persons with before, who changed	Persons who were hopeful who now came and voted against	Persons who were not to go the length with them—but who did vote with them as before.	Persons who went away.	Persons who staid away.	New Persons who did not vote before that we now got up, and were with us.	New Persons that Opposition got up and voted against us.	Pros that could not be got.	Cons that could not be got.
Farrer. Dimsdale.	Child. Wrottesley.	Hungerford. Penruddock.	Neville. Trentham.	Jackson. Parker, ill.	Anstruther. Cecil.	Bavington. Goddard, who was said to be off with Vernon.	Bacon E. Burrel Sr M.	Blake P. T. Coxe R. H.
Sr. G. Elliot.	Fludyer.	Rolle.	D'Oly.	Sr. Wm. Gordon, very ill. Lord W. Gordon can't now vote *so lost.*	Duntye.		Burton Davenport } circuit	Dempster.
3	Garden.	Knightley.	Dawes.		Durand.			Noel.
	Nisbet. 5	4	Sinclair. 5		Gordon Ld. Ad.	Luther, bro't in; cd. not walk.	Eden Sir I.	Scudamore.
				Lincoln Ld. w'd not come tho' his Father wrote to him.	Harley.			Wenman.
				Middleton Rd.	Harvey.		Manners Ld. W.	Woodley.
				Mackworth.	Hudson.	Savile Sir Geo.	Monckton Gen.	7
				A. Douglas, said to be in town but did not take his seat—as Windham did.	Joliffe. Lascelles.	Wilkes. Wyndham took his seat on purpose.	Owen V. H. 8	
					Masterman.			
				Eyre, Anthy. at Bath, as Lord Lincoln.	Murray Mr. Sollr. Genl. Scotland.	Gipps.		
				Hill, Noel, staid away at request.	Purling. Ross G.	7		
				Gough P. H. 11	Ward.			
				And I doubt not, on going carefully thro' the whole list, I shall find more.	York G.			
					Gilbert. Hyde Ld.			
					Boscawen.			
					Methuen [?] 20			
					These sh'd have grtly incrsd our numbers.			

No. 3561—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 414.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, [*Sunday*] *March* 17*th*, 1782
m. 2 *pt.* 8 A.M.

I am sorry to find by Lord North's Note that the Majority this morning did not exceed Nine; it looks as if the House of Commons is going lengths that could not have been expected. I am resolved not to throw myself into the hands of Opposition, at all events, and shall certainly if things go as they seem to lead know what my conscience as well as honour dictates as the only way left for Me.

No. 3562—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

PARLT. STREET. *March* 18*th*, 1782
½ *past* 9

Having this morning received the inclosed from Mr. Robinson [*wanting*], which contains a more accurate and particular account of the last Division in the House of Commons, I think it proper to transmit it to Your Majesty. Mr. Robinson's letter contains also some information of Lord North's present State of Mind.

If Your Majesty should see any of the Peers on the Plan we discours'd yesterday, I submit to Your Majesty whether You would not add the Duke of Northumberland to the number; I have heard since I was at St. James's yesterday that His Grace wishes to be seen by Your Majesty. Mr. Fox has been with Him, doing all he possibly could to gain Him.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject, C. JENKINSON.

No. 3563—*The King to Lord Chancellor Thurlow.*

MY LORD—I flatter myself Your little excursion into the Country for the last two Nights has been of advantage to your health; I trust now You come back You will continue trying whether it is not possible either to widen the present bottom, or form a new Administration on an extensive plan; the changing from one party to another can answer no real good; besides I

must then give up my principles and my honour, which I value above my crown : I hope to see you on Wednesday and to hear what steps you have taken.

St. James's. *March 15th*, 1782. *m.* 46 *pt.* 3 P.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3564—*The King to Lord Chancellor Thurlow.*

[In the handwriting of Queen Charlotte.]

[*Monday*, 18 *Mar.* 1782]

The King from a desire of healing the divisions that greatly obstruct the Wheels of Government, authorised the Lord Chancellor on Sunday March 10th to find out whether He could not lay before His Majesty any grounds on which an Administration might be formed on a broad basis, by collecting the best of all Parties, in point of private Characters and Abilities ; but declaring that H.M. had not the smallest intention of changing one Party for another, but to do that which might heal Divisions, and thus enable H.M. if attainable, to make Peace with Credit, and if not, to prosecute the War with that prospect of Success, which Unanimity can alone effect ; by this the King did not in the least point out any Persons who the Lord Chancellor should in preference consult.

The Lord Chancellor though he saw the difficulty, with zeal undertook to do his utmost, the result of which was His conversing with the Marquis of Rockingham, who avowed being able to answer for the different component parts of the Opposition ; the Chancellor stated the above and desired Lord R. would take time to consider of it and consult his friends, this past on Tuesday March 12th.

On Thursday March 14th the Marquis came to the Lord Chancellor and said.

1°. The King must not give a Veto to the Independence of America.

2°. The Contractors Bill must be past.

3°. A Bill for disqualifying all Officers of the Customs, from the right of voting at Elections.

4°. Mr. Burke's Regulation of the Civil List.

If these were granted, the Marquis was ready to wait on the King with whom alone He could treat on the subject of forming a new Administration.

The whole of these demands were so strange that it can only be looked upon as the disinclination of Opposition to give any Assistance to their Country. The King feels the indignity offered to His Person by such propositions, and cannot direct any further conversation to be held with the Marquis ; but is ready to adopt any Proposition that can be formed for widening the present bottom, or forming a new Administration on the above extensive Plan : but H.M. cannot offer up his Principles, his Honour, and the interest of his good subjects to the disposal of any set of Men.

The King cannot help adding that the whole of the Lord Chancellor's conduct has met with His Majesty's most entire Approbation.

March 18th, 1782

No. 3565—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

War Office, *March 18th*, 1782
¼ *past one*

I have just seen Lord Gower, who appears to be in as good a disposition as can be wished, and He means to see the Chancellour and to talk to Him on some step that may be proper to be taken, in order to free Your Majesty from the difficulties that surround You. He dreads very much the event of a majority against the Government in the House of Commons. He did not appear to me to entertain an idea of Your Majesty's seeing either of the Heads of the two Parties who compose at present the Opposition, but He suggested that Your Majesty should authorise the Chancellour to desire a Meeting of the Duke of Grafton, Lord Shelburn, Lord Rockingham, Lord John Cavendish : These, with the Chancellour (and perhaps it will be proper to add Lord Gower himself) may open their thoughts freely and try to arrange something : He threw out this meerly as an Idea or suggestion, on which however I am persuaded He will talk to the Chancellour : He said that the proposing such a Meeting would produce some advantage, one way or the other. If any of them refused to come to such a Meeting, they would hurt themselves with the public,

and with the moderate of their own party. If They all met, they might disagree, and some Good would arise from that, or if they could agree, they might form some arrangement which it might be proper to lay before Your Majesty. His Lordship seemed to be pretty well assured of the Duke of Grafton's good Disposition. He said that Lord Rockingham's Language at the second Conference with the Chancellour was very different from that of the first; that he had said to Him after the first Division that he was glad they had not beat us: he thought that Mr. Fox and some of the most heated were driving Him on. All this His Lordship said to me in Confidence: I hope therefore that Your Majesty will not mention it to anyone. If He and the Chancellour think proper to bring any such idea forward, you will hear more of it, either from me or some other Quarter, but I thought it right to apprize Your Majesty of this as well as of every thing else that I hear.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject, C. Jenkinson.

No. 3566—*Lord North to the King.*

[18 *March*, 1782]

Sire—Mr. Grosvenor to-day in the House of Commons desired me to appoint him an hour to-morrow morning, as he had a matter of importance to communicate to me, and I have since learned from good authority, that it is his intention to represent to me, in his own name, and in those of some other Country Gentlemen "*That, being now convinced that the present Administration cannot continue any longer, they are of opinion that vain and ineffectual struggles tend only to public mischief and confusion, and that they shall think it their duty henceforward to desist from opposing what appears to be clearly the sense of the House of Commons.*" If these gentlemen persist in this resolution, Your Majesty will perceive that we shall infallibly be in a Minority even on Wednesday next, when the House will be moved, in direct terms, to resolve "*That it is their opinion that the management of public affairs ought not to be continued in the hands of the present Ministers.*"

When I had the honour of an audience of Your Majesty this morning, I humbly endeavoured to state to Your Majesty my

reasons for thinking that the fate of the present Ministry is absolutely and irrecoverably decided ; The votes of the Minorities on Friday sevennight, and on Friday last contained, I believe, the genuine sense of the House of Commons, and I really think, of the Nation at large ; Not that I suppose the minds of men in general exasperated against the individuals who compose the Administration, but they are tired of the Administration collectively taken, and wish at all events to see it alter'd. The torrent is too strong to be resisted ; Your Majesty is well apprized that, in this country, the Prince on the Throne, cannot, with prudence, oppose the deliberate resolution of the House of Commons : Your Royal Predecessors (particularly King William the Third and his late Majesty) were obliged to yield to it much against their wish in more instances than one : They consented to changes in their Ministry which they disapproved because they found it necessary to sacrifice their private wishes, and even their opinions to the preservation of public order, and the prevention of these terrible mischiefs, which are the natural consequence of the clashing of two branches of the Sovereign Power in the State. The concessions they made were never deemed dishonourable, but were considered as marks of their wisdom, and of their parental affection for their people. Your Majesty has graciously and steadily supported the servants you approve, as long as they could be supported : Your Majesty has firmly and resolutely maintained what appeared to You essential to the welfare and dignity of this Country, as long as this Country itself thought proper to maintain it. The Parliament have altered their sentiments, and as their sentiments whether just or erroneous, must ultimately prevail, Your Majesty having persevered, as long as possible, in what You thought right, can lose no honour if you yield at length, as some of the most renowned and most glorious of your Predecessors have done, to the opinion and wishes of the House of Commons.

Your Majesty's desire is, I know, to form a Ministry on a broad bottom, and such an arrangement would certainly be the best, but, in the present moment, it is I fear, not attainable. In consequence of the disposition of the Ho. of Commons, a change in the Ministry is become absolutely necessary : There are no persons capable and willing to form a new Administration, except Lord Rockingham and Lord Shelburne with their parties : and

They will not act with any of the present Ministry but the Chancellor. It follows then that the present Cabinet must be removed, and either one or both of the before-mentioned parties must compose the new administration; or, that there will be no Ministry and the greatest confusion, with the most pernicious consequences, will prevail in every part of the Government. It is with great reluctance that I presume to advise Your Majesty to send either for Lord Rockingham or Lord Shelburne, but I should not be an honest man or a friend to my Country if I did not advise even that step rather than that Your Majesty, being no longer able to retain your present Ministers, should run the risk of leaving the Nation at this time, without any administration, at the mercy of all the evils and all the dangers which are naturally to be apprehended in such an unsettled state of affairs. Your Majesty's goodness encourages me to lay my poor but honest advice before you, and to submit whether it will not be for Your Majesty's welfare, and even glory, to sacrifice, at this moment, former opinions, displeasures and apprehensions (though never so well-founded) to that great object (which is always the uppermost in Your Majesty's heart and which is at present in a degree of peril) The Public Safety.

Your Majesty's future Administration will be strong with respect to all the great measures of Government, to the obtaining of supplies, to the conduct of war, and the conclusion of Peace. But, if Your New Ministers should attempt any dangerous innovations in the Constitution, they will, I believe, meet with a powerful and I hope, a successful opposition.

I have just seen the Lord Chancellor, who in consequence of a note received from Your Majesty to-day intends to call to-morrow morning upon Lord Shelburne. His sentiments I believe, agree with mine: He is sorry that the necessity of the times should oblige Your Majesty to take steps which cannot but be disagreeable to you, but he seems to think, with me, that no good purpose can be answered by a further contest. He desired me to remind Your Majesty that he had never own'd to Lord Rockingham his having mentioned his Lordship's four propositions to Your Majesty, but had always treated them as inferior, and subsequent considerations to be settled after the formation of a Ministry, and not as conditions of acceptance. He advises therefore that Your Majesty should not appear acquainted with

that part of Lord Rockingham's conversation. I beg leave to subscribe myself, Your Majesty's most dutiful servant and subject. NORTH.

Monday night.

No. 3567—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 415.

WINDSOR, *March 19th*, 1782
m. 21 *pt.* 11 P.M.

LORD NORTH—After having yesterday in the most solemn manner assured you that my sentiments of honour will not permit me to send for any of the Leaders of Opposition and personally treat with them, I could not but be hurt at your letter of last night. Every man must be the sole Judge of his feelings, therefore whatever you or any man can say on that subject has no avail with me.

Till I have heard what the Chancellor has done from his own mouth, I shall not take any step, and if You resign before I have decided what I will do, You will certainly for ever forfeit my regard.

Two copies, both in the King's hand, one endorsed in pencil.

No. 3568—*Lord North to the King.*

19 *Mar.* 1782

SIR—I have seen Mr. Grosvenor, and I believe have persuaded him to give me his Vote to-morrow, but his sentiments are what I described in the letter I had the honour of writing to Your Majesty last night, and he would be against us to-morrow, if he conceived that we were determined to persevere in the struggle, but thinking my intention to be only to gain a day or two's time, He will give us one other Vote: His resolution, however, is not general: I hear from every quarter that we shall certainly be beat to-morrow: Those who staid away last Friday will vote against us and many of those who voted for us will be absent; in short, Sir, there is no chance of keeping the present Ministry

in place any longer, and if there should be anybody who informs Your Majesty that there is the least hope left of doing so, he deceives you, being himself probably misinformed. The fate of the present Ministry being certain, Your Majesty should act accordingly, and do what is wisest, and best upon that supposition, without expecting any turn in favour of your present servants, which will not happen. I hear that Lord Shelburne has told the Chancellor to-day that he will speak to no person but Your Majesty: as an honest man I think myself bound to advise Your Majesty to see him immediately, and to try what arrangement can be made. He is preferable to Lord Rockingham, inasmuch as he has prepared no measures as a preliminary. But I should not propose this step, if it were not absolutely necessary; where an absolute necessity exists, Wisdom will teach us to submit to it with the best grace possible. If Lord Shelburne should not obtain the assistance of Lord Rockingham, yet if he is supported by the Chancellor, Lord Gower, Lord Weymouth, the Duke of Grafton, the Duke of Rutland, Lord Temple, Lord Camden, Sir James Lowther and all their friends, the Administration will be strong, and will do the public business with ability and insight. The Present Cabinet, except the Chancellor, must all be removed, and I conjure Your Majesty not to support any of us against the objections which may be brought by the person for whom Your Majesty thinks proper to send.

Having given to Your Majesty my best opinion on the general point, may I beg leave to add a word or two on my own particular situation. It is generally imagined that we shall be beat to-morrow: If it should happen, I must quit my office immediately, and shall remain in the Journals for ever stigmatized upon record by a Vote of Parliament for my removal, which I believe has seldom, if ever, happened to a Minister before. If by remaining in office I could serve Your Majesty, I would run any risk; But Your Majesty's affairs grow worse by every hour that my removal is delay'd. It is the opinion of all my friends and well-wishers, even of those who must be reduced to great distress, if I retire, that I should quit my office immediately. I submit the whole to Your Majesty's kind consideration, hoping that you will permit me to save myself from disgrace.

Your Majesty's most dutiful servant, NORTH.

No. 3569—*Lord North to the King.*

[19 *Mar.* 1782]

Sir—I have not been able since I had the honour of writing my last letter to Your Majesty to obtain any more intelligence as to the probable success of the Debate to-morrow. Some persons hope that we shall carry it by a small majority; others think that we shall certainly be outnumbered, but all agree that if we are able to reject the motion to-morrow, it will not be in our power to support the Administration for any time. The motion for to-morrow is drawn in the most gentle words in order to catch as many votes as possible, but the tendency of the Motion is to remove Your Majesty's present Ministers, and such must be the consequence if it is carried. The words, as I have been informed, are merely these:—"That in the present distracted state of the country, it is contrary to the interests of His Majesty to continue the management of public affairs in the hands of the present Ministers." This manner of wording the motion does not seem ill calculated to draw in some new votes, as the turn of many of the Minority is to remove, but not to censure the Ministry. It is the universal wish of my friends that I should retire, because they all think that my continuance in office can be of no service to Your Majesty's affairs. But all doubt will vanish if we lose the question; all Your Majesty's Cabinet will, in that case, be obliged to resign, and as the event may happen, I think it my duty to submit one or two points to Your Majesty's gracious consideration.

The Office of Keeper of the Signet in Scotland was under Sir Gilbert Elliot, and I believe, under his Predecessor, a place for life: upon Sir Gilbert's death, it was granted during pleasure, and in that respect, differs from the other great offices in Scotland. Your Majesty has certainly declared to me your Resolution to give this place to the Lord Advocate for Life, but that declaration was made when Your Majesty graciously intended to appoint him Treasurer of the Navy, and when a change of administration was not in agitation. He has really, Sir, been the principal and almost the only support of Your

Majesty's business in the House of Commons during these two or three years past; I could not have gone on without him, and in these last and most troublesome times he has stood so boldly and so openly against the Opposition that he will probably be proposed as one of the first sacrifices. It seems good policy to protect in such situation those who have, in a distinguished manner, stood forth in defence of Government; I ought to add, that the Advocate will, if this alteration is made in his Patent, be only upon the same footing as Lord Frederick Campbell and Mr. Mackenzie, and that his office of Lord Advocate will always be a sufficient inducement to him to look up to the Crown. The great abilities and spirit of the Advocate, with his constant and zealous support in the House of Commons (without which I could not have carried through Your Majesty's business) makes it incumbent upon me at this moment, humbly but earnestly to request Your Majesty that I may direct a new Patent of Keeper of the Signet in Scotland to be made out in his name for the term of his life.

Your Majesty knows that, during the time of my service at the head of the Treasury, I have not had any good office fall in my disposal; You will therefore not be surprised if in these moments, I should desire leave to lay before Your Majesty the case of Mr. Robinson, and to hope that it may not be thought improper to recommend him for some provision for his life, and for some reversion to his daughters.

Your Majesty some time ago granted the reversion of an office held by Mr. West to the sons of Sir Grey Cooper. If that place were in hand, it would be a sufficient provision for Sir Grey and his family, but the present incumbent is a gentleman of forty years old, and may live yet many years: I hope it will not be thought unreasonable if I were to propose some moderate provision for Lady Cooper and Sir Grey's daughters.

To speak of matters of private interest at this time may seem improper, and may be unreasonable, but as no other way has offered for providing for my Secretaries, who will certainly fall with me, I hope Your Majesty will not disapprove my giving some attention to their situation. Their predecessors have always had some provision, though few have served so long, and in such busy and turbulent times.

Humbly intreating Your Majesty's pardon for the trouble I have given you,

I beg leave to subscribe myself, Your Majesty's most faithful and dutiful subject and servant, NORTH.

Tuesday night, Mar. 19

No. 3570—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty that the House of Commons has adjourned till Monday next in order to give time to form a new Administration.

Lord North forgot to mention to His Majesty this morning, that Lord Sandwich had represented to him that his fortune had been impaired during the time he had been in office, and that he should wish that it might be known to His Majesty before he speaks upon the subject to His Majesty himself. He has certainly been a very diligent and a very able, and a very faithful servant; His situation naturally drew upon him many enemies, and made him the object of persecution on the part of the Opposition, but Lord North believes that his merit will be known when he is gone. His Majesty who knows more of Lord Sandwich's services than anybody will decide upon them.

Lord North holds it to be quite unnecessary to put His Majesty in mind of the very handsome and honourable post Mr. Ellis has held, and of the suggestion he made when he accepted of his present office, but which he did not propose as a condition, leaving himself entirely to the gracious determination of His Majesty.

Wednesday, March 20, 1782.

No. 3571—*Mr. Jenkinson to the King.*

At Lord Rockingham's request, the Chancellor waited on him on Monday Night, when they had another Conference, which ended as the last had done, without any good effect, Lord Rockingham insisting on the several conditions he had mentioned before, and the Chancellor concluded the Conference (as I am told) with some Degree of Warmth and Displeasure. The inclosed letter from Mr. Robinson will inform Your Majesty of all that

has happened since, and of the present state of things. I believe that the Chancellor has communicated all that has past not only to his particular Friends, but to Lord North : I know he has been with him.

I hope that Your Majesty's health is the better for the country air, and that you have been able to get some repose.

From Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject, C. JENKINSON.

PARLT. STREET, *March 20th*, 1782. 10 *o'clock.*

Enclosure.

Mr. Robinson to Mr. Jenkinson.

ST. JAMES'S SQUARE. *20th March*, 1782
30 *m. pt.* 6 A.M.

Most Private.

MY DEAR SIR—I did not write to you last night because I waited until near 1°., expecting Lord North might call, but he did not. Since I had the pleasure of seeing you, I find that the Chancellor had a long conversation yesterday afternoon on the Woolsack with Lord Shelburne, Mr. Fox watching them all the time. Lord Shelburne did not talk of Measures, but declined saying anything, except personally to His Majesty, nor could he be bro't to move from that Ground, so that the Conversation was totally ineffectual to any good purpose. The Chancellor will have wrote it last night, and will report it to-day, and I hear is of opinion that nothing is left but to temporize with them for the present, and to send to one or the other of them. Wher Lord Shelburne will, as to Measures, persist in the same as Lord Rockingham did in the last Conversation the Chancellor had with His Lordship on Monday afternoon, cannot be guessed at, for Lord Shelburne wou'd not open on the subject : but the Marquiss, I understand insisted on Four, viz., Mr. Burke's Bill, Mr. Crew's Bill, the Contractor's Bill and (*sic*) and he would not declare these to be the ultimatum of the party. Lord North wrote to the King on Monday, and talked of writing again as last night. Many gentlemen think that we should not fight the Battle to-day ; that everything may be lost by it, and nothing can be gained, for that with small Majorities if we even have them, altho' many think we shall not, but that we shall be beat, it is impossible to carry thro' the taxes and Public Business.

Mr. Grosvenor on the part of some of the Country Gentn. says

so, others of them hold the same Language, and indeed I am very sorry to-day that this Language is held so openly by too many, that it must add to our weakness, and I fear create more Rats. We have I fear lost the following of our last Numbers, that are gone out of town; what more may desert us, God only yet knows.

Pro's gone out of town.

Mr. Amcotts (a warm friend therefore hope he may be off with someone.)

Mr. Cecil (sent to, but much afraid he will not be got).

Mr. Tonnereau—can't hear where gone.

Mr. George Pitt—sent to.

Mr. Yeo—sent to.

Cons gone out of town that we know of.—

Hungerford,
Dunning
Baring.

Pro's it is hoped may be got to-day—

Sir Wm. Gordon.
Sir John Eden.
Mr. Vernon.

Mr. Rigby and the Advocate think we should move an adjournment to-day for three weeks, in order to give time for His Majesty to arrange a New Ministry, for they apprehend if Opposition should carry it by force to-night, it might bring on every insult and create disturbances which must produce the greatest confusion. The above contains the purport of all I have learnt since our last conversation, a few Hours must produce great events. God send they may be better than the prospect appears at present, for they are lamentable, but despondency and despair is not the way to surmount Misfortunes.

I am, ever most truly and most faithfully, my dear Sir, Yours, JOHN ROBINSON.

Inscribed, Recd. at 9 A.M.

No. 3572—*Lord Sandwich to the King.*

ADMIRALTY, *March 20th*, 1782

SIR—Penetrated as I am with Your Majesty's unexampled goodness to me, it is with the utmost reluctance that I presume

to take up a single moment of your attention at such a time as this, but necessity has no law ; I must therefore venture to throw myself at Your Majesty's feet, to supplicate that before I have the misfortune to leave your service, you would have the goodness to consider my situation, and to extend your benevolence to me in the same manner that you have done towards the Earl of Rochford and others of your servants, when it was convenient to your affairs that they should retire from business.

Your Majesty will not concieve that when I mention Lord Rochford I allude to the exterior marks of your approbation which you thought proper to confer upon him : my views are of a different kind, for I am obliged to own that my circumstances are in very great disorder, and that unless Your Majesty has the goodness to stretch forth a benevolent hand, I must sink under my distresses.

Your Majesty may however rest assured that nothing that I may hold in consequence of your compassion to me shall restrain me a moment from taking my part in any Measures which I think Your Majesty disapproves, tho' perhaps your future Administration may see things in a different light. I shall devote the remainder of my life to the study of what is likely to be most conducive to your ease and comfort, and to the good of your service, and shall enter into no connection but such as I am certain is approved by Your Majesty, and has your real interest and wishes closely and truly at heart.

I have the honour to be, with the most profound respect, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutyfull and most faithfull subject and servant, SANDWICH.

No. 3573—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 416.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *March 22nd*, 1782
m. 2 *pt.* 4 P.M.

LORD NORTH—The enclosed Paper was given Me this day by Mr. Jenkinson. He wishes only to have a letter from You signifying my consent to a new Patent when it may suit his convenience.

I cannot say anything upon that subject without at the same time communicating what I did not choose to do this day in conversation ; I mean an inclination of granting to You the same Pecuniary reward that Sir Robert Walpole accepted ; the applications of those who must on any new Plan retire for provisions is without end, and when Oeconomy is in every man's mouth, I must certainly not attend to them : but this for you and a Provision for Mr Robinson, Secretary of the Treasury, equal to what Sir Grey Cooper holds, by grant of the 4½ per cents, and by an Office at Newcastle which together make up £1,000 per annum would be very just, and the Pension to subsist till he can come into Possession of some place in the Customs : if you will look out I do not doubt such an office may be found.

Enclosure.

The Patent of Collector inwards of the Port of London was granted near twenty years ago for Mr. Jenkinson's Life, to Sir Robert Jenkinson Bart and his Heirs and Assigns, to take place at the death of Sir Edward Walpole, who is still alive. In 1765, Sir Robert Jenkinson died, leaving an only Brother his heir, in whom the Interest in the aforesaid Patent then vested, and still continues. Sir Banks Jenkinson's Male Heir is Mr. Jenkinson. His Heir-at-Law is a Sister, a Lunatic, who has been in confinement more than twenty years, to whom the right of this Patent must fall in case of the death of Sir Banks Jenkinson, who is now about 61 years of age. Mr. Jenkinson, apprehending this event, took the late Mr. Charles York's Opinion about 16 years ago upon the steps that he ought to take to secure his Interest in the Patent. He was asked whether Sir Banks Jenkinson could assign his right in the Patent to any other Trustee ; Mr. York was very doubtful whether he could or not, though the word *assigns* was in the patent. He rather thought that the right would necessarily descend to the Heir-at-law : He advised therefore against an Assignment, but he was clearly of opinion that the Court of Chancery, upon application, would support the Interest of the Person who had the real right in the Patent, and oblige the Heir-at-Law, though a Lunatic, to execute a Deputation for that purpose, to some Person that the Court should approve. Mr. York however advised, without any suggestion on

the part of Mr. Jenkinson, that in order to avoid these difficulties, Sir Banks Jenkinson should surrender the Patent, and that there should be a new grant of the office to other Trustees, against whom the before-mentioned difficulties would not lye : Mr. York, in his Opinion before mentioned, treats this Proceeding as a mere matter of convenience to which no Government could have any objection, as no new Interest was thereby granted in the Patent.

Mr. Jenkinson is obliged to Lord North for His Intention of allowing him to have a new Patent, appointing other Trustees, but as the surrender of the old one is a Business of some nicety and may require time, and as Sir Banks Jenkinson's health is at present pretty good, he will not, in the hurry and confusion of the present times give Lord North this trouble. If His Lordship will be so good instead thereof to write him a letter signifying the King's Consent, that for Mr. Jenkinson's conveniency, a new Patent shall be granted, appointing other Trustees, whenever Mr. Jenkinson shall apply for it, Mr. Jenkinson will rest on this security, thinking it sufficient to induce any possible Government not to refuse so very small a favour, when the heat and confusion of the present times shall be abated.

No. 3574—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North begs leave to express, in the strongest manner, his most grateful acknowledgements to His Majesty for his very gracious and favourable acceptance of his poor services, which His Majesty is pleased to estimate and reward so much beyond their value.

Sir Robert Walpole's Pension was charged to the Hereditary Excise, and granted for the joint lives of the King and Sir Robert. In the present instance, The Hereditary Excise having been ceded during his Majesty's life, to the Public, Lord North doubts whether it can be legally charged with any outgoing by a Royal Sign Manual : Neither is he quite certain whether a grant in the form of Lord Oxford's is tenable with a seat in the House of Commons, though he is rather of opinion that it is.

Lord North has desired the Attorney General to call upon him, that he may be satisfied on these two points ; He imagines that if he can ever be of service anywhere, it will be in the House

of Commons, and his wish is, to be in that situation in which his weak abilities can be most usefully employed, for His Majesty and the Public.

Friday, March 22, 1782.

No. 3575—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

24th March, 1782

Sir—In consequence of Your Majesty's permission, I have conversed with Lord Rockingham, and have received his answer in writing, which requires explanation. I have inclosed it for Your Majesty's perusal, with mine in return. I am to beg Your Majesty's permission to wait upon Your Majesty, whenever you are pleased to appoint.

I have the happiness to be, with the most profound respect, Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject and faithfull servant,

Shelburne.

Enclosure.

Lord Shelburne to Lord Rockingham.

[Copy in the King's hand.]

24 *Mar.* 1782

Lord Shelburne presents his compliments to Lord Rockingham ; the names his Ldshp. is pleased to inclose are so respectable that it is unnecesary for Him to give any opinion upon them. He is to see Lord Camden and the Duke of Grafton to-night whom it will be necessary to consult so far as regards themselves, as well as in regard to the formation of the whole. He will be glad to see His Ldp. here or in Grosvenor Square to-morrow morning for the purpose of considering further.

In the meantime it is unnecessary to consider of the adjournment to-morrow, if His Ldp. thinks it may be done by motion, in consequence of the step already taken by the King, it should be settled who is to make it ; if not it must be done by Message.

Enclosure.

Lord Rockingham to Lord Shelburne.

[Copy in the King's hand.]

Lord Rockingham presents his Compliments to Lord Shelburne, and desires to explain clearly to His Lordship his opinion

that such a Cabinet should be formed as is suitable to the execution of the very important Measures which Lord Rockingham had the honour of submitting to His Majesty, through the Lord Chancellor.

Upon Lord Rms. being assured that His Majesty consented to these Measures, and that He shall have this consent confirmed to him by His Majesty Himself,

Lord Rm. is willing to state to Lord Shelburne his Ideas of a Cabinet likely to concurr in the Principles of those Measures, and therefore fit for the Execution of them, upon which, if Lord Shelburne agrees, Lord Rm. will proceed to talk to Lord Shelburne upon the subject of other arrangements.

Grosvenor Square. *Sunday* P.M. 6 *o'clock. March 24th,* 1782

No. 3576—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

Lord Shelburne—I have just received your letter inclosing the Papers Lord Rockingham has sent to You, and a copy of Your answer. I have kept them to show them early in the Morning to the Lord Chancellor: You may depend on my not showing them to any other Person.

I desire to see You at Eleven to-morrow morning. You cannot be surprised at my not thinking Lord Rockingham's paper satisfactory to the ideas I conveyed through you.

Queen's House. *March 24th,* 1782 George R.
m. 30 *past* 10 P.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3577—*The King to Lord Chancellor Thurlow.*

My Lord—I have just received from Lord Shelburne a Paper he has received from Lord Rockingham. It is so very different from the proposition I made through Lord Shelburne that I must desire You will be with Me by Nine to-morrow morning; I have appointed Lord Shelburne at eleven, that I may have fully conversed with you previous to that Meeting.

Qu[een's] H[ouse]. *March 24th,* 1782
m. 40 *pt.* 10 P.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3578—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 417.

Lord North—I have seen the Chancellor this morning to talk over what has as yet arisen, but I find things go on extremely slow, and that I have not much reason to expect my confidence will be gained by the high demands, if not beat down before laid before me, of the great Party. He entered pretty fully with Me on your subject, from an anxious zeal that your situation should be easy, and suggested that instead of a Pension my Granting the Cinque Ports to you for life, and making the Sallary equal to the Pension given to Sir Robert Walpole was the most simple mode; if you are of the same opinion I desire the proper Instrument may instantly be prepared.

Queen's House. *March 25th*, 1782.
m. 20 *pt.* 10 A.M.

No. 3579—*Lord North to the King.*

[? 25 *March*, 1782]

Lord North wants words to express the sense he has of His Majesty's goodness in the alteration he has been pleased to make in the provision intended for him: The office is in point of dignity and in many other circumstances a most agreeable possession, and the salary is not the only desirable part of it. Lord North, having received such an instance of His Majesty's gracious acceptation of his poor services in the offer of Sir Robert Walpole's pension, could not think of applying for any other mark of favour for himself, but owns that he wished extremely that it might suit His Majesty to provide for him in the manner now proposed; as the next Administration might wish to give the office to a friend of their own, and as this manner of arranging the business will be less burthensome to His Majesty as the present salary of £1,500 per annum will sink, and Lord North not be so heavy a burthen upon His Majesty's Civil List.

No. 3580—*Lord North to the King.*

[25 *March*, 1782]

Lord North is much concerned to give His Majesty any further trouble at this busy time: He presumes, however to mention a few points to His Majesty, and to submit them to his Royal consideration, trusting that if anything he says is improper, His Majesty's goodness will pardon it.

The Dean of Lincoln has vacated the Deanery of Rochester a few days ago; as it will soon no longer belong to Lord North to speak to His Majesty on the subject of Ecclesiastical preferments, He humbly begs leave to mention to His Majesty his friend Dr. Dampier to whom His Majesty declared himself not unwilling upon a former occasion, to confer a Deanery. Lord North begs leave at the same time to recommend Dr. Davies for the vacant Canonry of Windsor.

Lord North gave hopes some years to Dr. Wollaston that he would apply to His Majesty to procure for him the first vacant Canonry of Windsor, and he has delay'd troubling His Majesty for some time in hopes that he might have an opportunity of recommending at the same moment Dr. Dampier, Dr. Davies and Dr. Wollaston. But as no such opportunity is likely to offer before Lord North surrenders the Exchequer Seals, He takes the liberty of mentioning Dr. Dampier and Dr. Davies to His Majesty, and to intercede on their behalf.

Mr. Robinson will be very grateful for the reversion either of the Comptrollership of the Customs, or of the Inspectorship of the Prosecutions in the same department, in case the latter can be granted in reversion. He will take that which is most agreable to Your Majesty, and if Your Majesty will be pleased to grant it for two lives, He will propose Lord Abergavenny's two sons, Mr. Henry and Mr. George Henry Neville. If his own Name is inserted, upon the Reversion falling to him, he will be incapable of a seat in Parliament. But this he submits entirely to Your Majesty, being very thankful to Your Majesty for your goodness, in whatever form he receives this much of it.

As it seemed to be Your Majesty's opinion that £1,000 a year might not be an unreasonable provision for a Secretary of Treasury, Lord North laid before Your Majesty the value of

Sir Grey Cooper's two places, viz., the Pension on the 4½ per cent, £480 per ann. and the Searcher at Newcastle £180 per annum, together £660 per annum; and submits whether a pension might not be granted to Ly Cooper, determinable at pleasure, but on no account to be continued after the Auditorship of the Land Revenues should fall in, producing £340 per annum. Lord North thinks it right to mention that he has given Sir Grey [Cooper] no hopes of success in his application.

Lord North would not have mentioned his idea respecting the Signet in Scotland unless he had thought that in these times it was for His Majesty's Interest to comply with the wish of the Lord Advocate. In other times, his sentiments might possibly be different, but, as the Advocate has so steadily and ably supported Government for these last four or five years, and as it will be of much consequence that he should be present, and cheerfully resist those measures which he has condemned before, but which may be brought on in a short time, Lord North thought it useful to gratify him in a point in which He thinks he is distinguished from his countrymen in an unfavourable manner, there being seven or eight of the principal offices in Scotland granted for life, and scarce any of the same importance as his, which is held during pleasure. Lord North asks a thousand pardons for touching upon this matter again, but recollecting how difficult, if not impossible it would have been for him to carry on His Majesty's business without the Advocate's assistance, and foreseeing how much will depend, in some very important questions which are expected, upon his cheerful and cordial support, he thought it his duty just to touch once more upon it, confiding in His Majesty's kindness, that if his advice is disapproved, as it may probably deserve to be, He shall be pardoned on account of the intention with which he gives it, which is really a desire to promote the service of His Majesty and the Country to the best of his poor judgement.

Lord North has always thought that His Majesty's resolution to be very sparing in reversions was founded in the truest wisdom, but on account of some which were granted before his time and from other circumstances, He has never been able to procure any permanent provision for Mr. Brummell who has been his private Secretary for near fifteen years, and he has indeed had the opportunity of giving him only a very moderate

and precarious present income: if His Majesty can consent to a reversion of the value of about £6 to £800 per annum, it will be a mark of the greatest favour to Lord North, who will certainly be pressed, upon this point as the private Secretaries of Sir Robert Walpole, Mr. Pelham, the D. of Newcastle, and Lord Bute were much more greatly, as well as permanently provided for. The Clerk of the Pipe is worth from 6 to £800 per annum, and is now held by Sir John Shelley. If His Majesty could consent to that or any other reversion of the same or smaller value, it would answer the highest wish of Lord North, who is much afraid that he may appear craving, but humbly submits that this appearance proceeds from his having had so very few places fall, during his continuance in office, and to his resolution of never troubling His Majesty for reversions, while he had a prospect of providing for his Secretaries in a more usual and regular way.

Monday evening 10 *o'clock.*

No. 3581—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—I was with Lord Rockingham till very late last night upon the subject of further arrangements, and am to see him to-day at 3 o'clock to come to a final understanding upon them. If it is convenient to Your Majesty to allow me to attend Your Majesty any time this evening, I hope to be able to explain it very shortly, and that I shall have been able to keep things within the bounds prescribed by Your Majesty.

I have the honour to be, with the most profound respect, Your Majesty's Dutyfull Subject and Faithful servant,

Tuesday, 26 *March*, [1782]. 8 *o'clock* Shelburne.

No. 3582—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

Lord Shelburne's Note, I look upon as an instance of *personal* attention, and feel it as such; I trust from it He has stood firm, and will have remembered that the Powers intrusted to Him in the Ministerial line, according to His own sentiments, gives him

strength with more vigour to resist all others. I shall be glad to see Lord Shelburne at Seven this evening if that hour is perfectly convenient to him.

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *March 26th*, 1782
m. 30 *pt.* 8 A.M.

No. 3583—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 418.

LORD NORTH—Having declared to those who are to form an Administration that no provisions would be made but for you and Mr Robinson, to which I must add the assurance given to Sir Stanier Porten four years ago must also be added [*sic*]: I certainly cannot do any more. I never meant to say that £1,000 a year ought to be the provision for a Secretary of the Treasury, but thinking Sir Grey Cooper had that, I was of opinion that Mr. Robinson, who has had all the labour, was intitled to whichever office of Customs is fixed on for him, his Pension should cease when He comes to enjoy it: the reversion must be his own life and that of his Son-in-Law; the remaining in Parlt. when such an event happens cannot be an object to him.

Lord North will write this morning to the Secretary of State's Office, that the Warrant be prepared to appoint Dr. Dampier Dean of Rochester, and Dr. Davies Canon of Windsor.

I must just add that all further applications for Offices and reversions, etc. must now cease.

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *March 25th*, 1782
m. 40 *pt.* 8 A.M.

No. 3584—*Lord North to the King.*

[26 *March*, 1782]

Lord North has the honour of sending to His Majesty a set of Warrants for his Royal signature, if approved.

1. Reversion of the office of Inspector of Prosecutions to Mr's Robertson and Neville.
2. Special service Warrant out of the Dutchy of Cornwall.
3. Sir Stanier Porten.

4. Sir Jno. Frederick.
5. A Warrant revoking Mr. Knox's pension of £1,200, and granting one of £500 to him, and one of £600 to his wife. Mr. Knox told Lord North that His Majesty had promised to Lord Sackville to make that alteration in his pension.
6. Appointment of Wm. Douglas Esqre. Comr. of Hackney Coaches in the room of Morton Pleydell Esq resigned.
   Mr. Douglas has been a Solicitor at the Treasury for preferment these ten or eleven years. He suffered a considerable loss when an Estate he had near Portsmouth was taken from him to erect the new fortifications. He has many friends and is a worthy man. Mr. Pleydell, an old friend of Lord North's, is in a very bad state of health, unable to live in London, and has therefore been for some time desirous of quitting his office.
7. This Article is submitted to His Majesty's consideration. Mr. James Macpherson has for many years been a most laborious and able writer in favour of Government. The History of the Opposition, The best defense of the American War, and almost all the good pamphlets on the side of Administration were the production of his pen. When Lord North succeeded the Duke of Grafton, he found Mr. Macpherson on the private list of Pensioners. He is now in possession of a Pension of £500 a year, and has lately lost the place of Secretary to the Province of West Florida, worth near £300 a year. He will certainly meet with no mercy from the New Administration, who are much irritated against him. It is proposed to secure some provision for him in the following manner: Three Pensions of £150 each on the Scotch Establishment in the names of Lady Anne and Lady Elizabeth Lindsay, and Thos. Montgomerie Esqre., and one Pension of £150 on Lord Gage's list in the name of Jas Willis Esqre. These four pensions of £150 each will produce in all above £500 nett. Lord North thought he owed it to Mr. Macpherson to lay this matter before His Majesty, to whose gracious attention he has the honour to submit it.
8. This Article is recommended as a charity to two persons who have no other claim but age, sickness and poverty. Matthew Page is almost bedridden and Jane Holmes is near 70 years old, but their only claim is being poor, their cir-

cumstances in distress, and not likely to be long a burthen on His Majesty. The Pensions in the Warrant are £50 p. ann. each.

9. The four Randalls who are recommended for £10 per ann. each are the daughters of Lieutenant Randall a very good and gallant Officer who was killed in the engagement on the Dogger Bank. They are left with their Mother in the most extreme poverty : the widow, who is very infirm and not likely to live, has a Navy pension amounting to £20 or £30 a year. This is all the subsistence of the family now ; when She dies, they will have nothing. Lord North is sensible that these two Warrants may be considered as a breach of the rule laid down by His Majesty, but the smallness of the sums, and the compassionate nature of the cases, encouraged him to send them.
10. A Warrant for certain rewards to some of the inferior Officers of the Board of Works, and the appraisers employed in surveying the damages by the Riots. These rewards were settled some time ago, and appeared upon examination to be very reasonable.

N.B. Since Lord North began this note, the Warrant for Mr. Robinson's Pension has been brought to him. In order to produce £1,000 nett, the Pension must be of £1,500, as appears by an account annexed [*wanting*]. If His Majesty thinks the sum too high, it will, upon the signification of His Majesty's pleasure be reduced. Mr. Robinson has informed Lord North that he has chosen the Reversion of the Inspectorship of Prosecutions from some doubt started by the Atty. Genl. of the legality of granting a reversion of the Comptrollership of the Customs, as it is prohibited by several old Acts of Parliament, though in fact it has been frequently granted in reversion.

[*This letter is very ill written, even for Lord North, bearing signs of extreme haste.*]

Tuesday evening, 12 *o'clock.*

P.S. The Warrant for Mrs. Arnold's pension, which is enclosed, has been drawn in pursuance of His Majesty's orders, received from Mr Ellis.

Lord North takes the liberty of adding some papers relative

to a Claim of Lord Weymouth, which seems clearly just as far as relates to his disbursements, but more doubtful as to the salary.

No. 3585—*Lord North to the King.*

[*March* 26, 1782]

Lord North has the honour of inclosing this bundle of Pensions on the Civil Establishment of Scotland, not with any expectation that His Majesty will grant them, but because he thinks it his duty to lay them all before His Majy, in case he should deem it proper to grant any. They are all cases of charity, and proper objects of the Royal Bounty ; they have been long accumulating until the Chief Baron of the Exchequer should report the state of the Scottish Revenue, and whether there are any funds equal to the occasional demands for charity and applicable to it. The Report is just come, and therefore Lord North thinks it right to send all the applications, in case His Majesty should [think fit] to select any, the fund being equal to almost all of them. If among the cases which are all proper, there are any more proper than the rest, they are, as Lord North is informed—

The Countess of Errol who has nine children to maintain on an Estate of £600 a year.

Lady Mary Campbell.

Mrs. Jean Cockburne.

Mrs. Allan Grant.

The five daughters of Dr. Watson

and Mrs Anne Mingay, sister to Lt. Col. Webster, who was killed in North Carolina.

Lady Errol's Pension is rated at £300 a year ; all the others at about £500 a year in all ; But Lord N. begs leave to be understood not to solicit His Majesty for any of these pensions, but barely to lay them before Him, that the supplicants may not suffer for want of having their case laid before His Majesty.

There are two others of which hopes have been given many years ago, but of which it is probably improper to take any notice now ; one is to Mrs. Grant the widow of Genl. Grant ; the other to Mrs Macleane. Lord North did not think it right to quit His Majesty's service without mentioning them.

Tuesday night.

No. 3586—*Lord North to the King.*

[26 *March*, 1782 ?]

Lord North has the honour of informing His Majesty that Lord Hillsborough called upon Lord North this morning to talk with him upon the subject of Lord Rawdon's corps, and to express his wish that some step may be taken in that business immediately.

Lord North forgot to mention to His Majesty that Mr. Crespigny, His Majesty's Proctor, had, before his coming into Parliament an annual payment of £200 a year. In consequence of Election assistance he was to have had £400, but could not hold it in Parliament, and therefore has never received any since the General Election, and therefore wished either to have a pension of £400 to his wife or to have the salary annex'd to his office.

Mr. Mayer has a claim upon the Public for very diligent labours, and very essential assistance in amending the Tax upon paper. Lord North has not been able to reward him, and therefore thinks himself obliged to state his merit to His Majesty.

Lord North hopes that His Majesty will forgive his troubling him upon so many subjects, but he does no more than justice requires him to say, before he leaves his present situation.

No. 3587—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's, *Tuesday night, March* [26*th*], 1782

In a conversation I had this afternoon with the Chancellor, I took the liberty of mentioning to Him that Your Majesty might possibly be pleased to see Him to-morrow morning at the Queen's House or at St. James's *before* the Levee. I presumed to do this as I imagined that this Audience might probably be a long one. How far He will give His opinion on any subjects on which Your Majesty does not expressly call for it, I cannot pretend to judge, but I am confident from the manner in which He spoke to me that upon every Point on which Your Majesty thinks proper to ask His sentiments, He will lay them before You without the least Disguise, and with the most ardent Zeal

for Your Majesty's service and most anxious sollicitude to lessen an evil which, in the present most alarming crisis, does not admit of a cure.

I find that every endeavour has been used to discover from Him if Your Majesty had given any opinion upon the four Points, and that He framed His answers with great caution and propriety. As it is evident that their purpose is to draw advantage from insisting upon Points which they have contrived to make Popular for the moment, and wish to have it thought that they have been resisted by Your Majesty, I am strongly confirmed in the opinion I hazarded yesterday—that no use should be made of the Paper with which Your Majesty trusted me yesterday, and this opinion coincides not only with the Chancellor's, but with that of another Person whose sentiments I resolved to ask upon this occasion.

No. 3588—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 419.

Lord North—It is impossible I can within three or four hours of Your resigning be opening a door to fresh Claims: I shall keep your letter as what may hereafter serve as a plea in favour of those Persons, if ever I am in a better situation. The Warrants now sent must be some days antidated.

Queen's House. *March 27th,* 1782
m. 48 *pt.* 8 A.M.

Lord Hillsborough always puts things off to the last minute, and though an amiable Man, the least a man of business I ever knew. If he can write a letter to Ireland concerning Lord Rawdon, and at least antidate a week, I shall not object; otherwise I do not see what I can do in it when there is a thorough rout.

No. 3589—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

[27 *March,* 1782]

Sir—I have the honor to send Your Majesty, in obedience to Your Majesty's commands, the inclosed List for the use of the Lord in waiting.

I did not imagine last night that there was time sufficient to apprize the Boards of Treasury and Admiralty, so as for them to kiss hands to-day. I have however acquainted Lord Rockingham of what Your Majesty suggested yesterday, that Writs can be moved upon, or declaration of acceptance, but if any of them wish to kiss hands to-day, I will take care to send Your Majesty another copy of the Inclosed List, with their names added in due time.

I have the honour to be, with high respect Your Majesty's most dutyfull subject and servant, SHELBURNE.

Wednesday, ½ past ten A.M.

P.S. I have the honour to inclose Lord Rockingham's paper, lest Your Majesty should wish to look at it before or after his Audience of Your Majesty.

No. 3590—*Draft, in the King's hand, of the new Administration.*

[*March* 27, 1782]

Ld Chancellor	(Lord Thurlow)
Ld President, ...	Ld Camden.
Ld Privy Seal, . . .	D. of Grafton.
1st Ld of the Treasury, . .	Ld Rockingham.
Chancellor of the Exchequer, .	Ld John Cavendish.
Secretary of State . . .	Ld Shelburne.
Secretary of State . . .	Mr. Fox.
Master Genl. of the Ordnance .	D. of Richmond.
1st Ld of the Admiralty . .	Ad. Keppel.
Commander-in-Chief. . .	Gen. Conway.

No. 3591—*Lord Bathurst to the King.*

27th Mar. 1782

SIRE—In obedience to Your Majesty's Commands, I have given the proper Orders for summoning a Council in the great Council Chamber, and for the Clerk-in-Waiting to have his Books ready for swearing in the different Officers.

Words cannot express the lively sense I have of Your Majesty's

goodness to me during the whole time I have had the honour to be in Your service : I shall always retain the most gratefull and devoted attachment to Your Person and Government, and to my dying day pray the Almighty to protect and bless you.

Permit me, Sire, however to express my humble hope that Your Majesty will not part with an old Servant without some mark of your royal approbation. The high offices I have so long borne have put me into a way of living, that, with a large family growing up, will render it very inconvenient without Your Majesty's goodness is extended to me.

I am, Sire, Your Majesty's most faithfull, dutifull and devoted servant, BATHURST.

March 27th, 1782.

No. 3592—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

SIR—I did myself the honour to signifye to Lord Rockingham last night that it was Your Majesty's pleasure that he should attend Your Majesty this day at twelve o'clock at the Queen's House. I have also fixed the several Members who are to compose Your Majesty's Cabinet to attend at the Levee.

I will never trouble Your Majesty with apprehensions of difficulties where there is no alternative. I had a good deal of difficulty again last night to put off Sir Fletcher Norton's Peerage *for the present.* I had an infinite deal to keep the Lieutenant General of the Ordnance *open.* Lord Rockingham will probably feel himself under a necessity of mentioning both to Your Majesty this morning, but I trust and hope that he will do it, as well as every thing, with such propriety as may induce Your Majesty to make him as happy as Your Majesty certainly makes, notwithstanding a most anxious situation,

Your Majesty's most dutyfull subject and faithful servant,

Wednesday, 27th March, 8 *o'clock* A.M. SHELBURNE.

P.S. I have likewise signified Your Majesty's Commands to Mr. Townsend and Mr. Barré, as Lord Rockingham will to Mr. Burke.

No. 3593—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 420.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *March 27th*, 1782

LORD NORTH—At last the fatal day is come which the misfortunes of the times and the sudden change of sentiments of the House of Commons have drove me to, of Changing the Ministry, and a more general removal of other persons than, I believe, ever was known before: I have to the last fought for Individuals, but the number I have saved except My Bedchamber is incredibly few. You would hardly believe that even the D. of Montagu was strongly run at, but I declared I would sooner let confusion follow than part with the late Governor of my Sons, and so unexceptionable a Man; at last I succeeded, so that He and Lord Ashburnham remain. The effusion of my sorrows has made me say more than I had intended, but I ever did and ever shall look on You as a friend as well as faithful servant. Pray acquaint the Cabinet that they must this day attend at St. James's to resign; I shall hope to be there if possible by one, and will receive them before the Levee, as I think it would be awkward to have the new People presented at the Levee prior to the resignations. G. R.

Where is Robinson's Warrant?

No. 3594—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 421.

LORD NORTH—I can by no means think Mr. Robinson should have the fees paid out of his Pension of £1,000 per annum; I therefore return it unsigned that it may be altered, but it must be here before eleven this day and antidated some days. You cannot conceive what a battle I have fought on Your Appointment and what is done for Robinson; I cannot go further: all the Warrants I have signed must be antidated.

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *March 27th*, 1782
m. 55 *pt.* 8 A.M.

Lord Weymouth's claim is clear as to his disbursements, but no further; the Warrant must be here before eleven.

No. 3595—*Lord North to the King.*

[27 *March*, 1782.]
10 A.M.

Lord North has obey'd His Majesty's Commands with respect to my Lord President, my Lord Privy Seal, Lord Hillsborough, Lord Stormont, Lord Sandwich, Lord Amherst, and Mr. Ellis. As there are other Lords nominally of the Cabinet, who are to retire, He does not know whether it is His Majesty's intention that Lord North should write to them.

Lord North cannot conclude without returning His Majesty his sincere thanks for his constant goodness to him, and without assuring His Majesty that it will be the business of his life in every station, to show his attachment to His Majesty to the utmost of his power.

Wednesday morning ½ *pt.* 10 A.M.

No. 3596—*The King to the Duke of Montagu.*

[27 *March*, 1782 ?]

DUKE OF MONTAGU—Your heart which is ever affectionate must I am certain, feel for my situation at an hour when not only all my Ministers except the Chancellor, and most of my Court except yourself, Lord Ashburnham and my Bedchamber in its different branches are also swepped [*sic*]; the agitation of my mind You may discover by the badness of my writing. What I have to communicate is that the whole party have refused to accept, and in short will rather see the Country in a flame than not restore the late Lieutenants of Wilts and East York to those County Honours. You know how I love Lord Aylesbury; I trust he will feel that this goes to my Soul: I have wrote him my distress, but I trust it will not make him quit the Queen's family, as he must see how I am used. Do not let him add to my distress. I must owne Lord Shelburne has done all he could to prevent the change in the County of Wilts, but without effect. GEORGE R.

No. 3597—*Lord Amherst to the King.*

SIRE—I am very unable to express the sense I have of Your Majesty's great goodness to me, by Your Majesty's most gracious Letter, and I beg, with my most humble and devoted duty, to assure Your Majesty that since I have had the honour of commanding Your Majesty's Army here, I have had no other end in view than to serve Your Majesty faithfully, to the honour of Your Majesty's Arms and the good of the Country. I shall pursue the same as long as I live, in whatever station I may be in, satisfyed and convinced as I am by Your Majesty's most gracious letter, that (as far as regards myself) I have more reason to rejoyce than lament my present situation, though deprived of the honour of the Comand of Your Majesty's Troops here, and being Lieutenant General of the Ordnance.

I have the honour to be, with the most devoted duty, Sire, Your Majesty's most dutifull, most humble and most obedient subject and servant, AMHERST.

Near WHITEHALL, 27*th March*, 1782.

No. 3598—*Mr Jenkinson to the King.*

PARLT. STREET, *March* 27*th*, 1782
¼ *pt.* 9

I have thought it right to send the inclosed letter to Your Majesty, on account of the words in it, which I have drawn a line under.

From, Your Majesty's dutyfull subject, C. JENKINSON.

Enclosure.

Mr Robinson to Mr Jenkinson.

ST. JAMES'S SQUARE, 27*th March* 1782. 10 *m. pt.* 3 A.M.
Wednesday

MY DEAR SIR—I am very sorry that I could not come to you when you sent to me; Lord North had just before sent for me downstairs, and there have I been kept with him, back and forward from the Treasury to him, and with him, until about

15 minutes ago. *He has wrote a great deal to His Majesty on the State of a great number of Applications and business, finding himself obliged to it from the Situation and Circumstance of those Things, but with an expectation that many of them will not be approved.* I will certainly see you in the morning to state to you what had been done about my business on consultation with the Attorney General, and on his ideas of the questionable legality of a Grant of the Comptroller's Office, which indeed I wished to have done, before the Papers went to His Majesty, but I will certainly see you as soon as I possibly can in the morning, and am Ever most truly and most faithfully yours, J. Robinson.

No. 3599—*Lord Dartmouth to the King.*

[27 *Mar.* 1782]

Sir—Having taken my leave of Your Majesty as your servant, I have no longer any right to obtrude myself upon Your Majesty's notice, but the manner in which Your Majesty has parted with me, which I shall never forget, encourages me once more to throw myself at Your Majesty's feet. The sense of Your Majesty's goodness to me is sufficient to make me ample amends for the mortification of being obliged to quit Your Majesty's service; at the same time I will freely confess to Your Majesty, that an assurance from Your Majesty that I am not to lose that honourable and public mark of Your Majesty's favour, which you was once graciously pleased to intend to confer upon me, will compleat the happiness of Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful and faithful subject, Dartmouth.

No. 3600—*The King to Lord Dartmouth.*

Lord Dartmouth—The manner I parted with You was the only one I can ever have towards You, as it must ever be founded on the regard I have for your virtues. I shall ever gladly seize when in *my Power*, the opportunity of testifying my sentiments by the honourable decoration You hint at: but at the present hour, you must yourself see the impossibility of doing that which

is the more mortifying as I fear those vacant must be otherwise disposed of.

A Politician would have been less explicit, but as I pretend to nothing but honesty, I thought it best to express what I know I cannot do, and what I shall eagerly embrace the opportunity of performing when in my power. G. R.

Qu. H. *March 27th*, 1782
m. 46 *pt.* 6 P.M.

No. 3601—*Draft Message from the King.*

[*March* 1782]

His Majesty during the twenty one years He has sate on the Throne of Great Britain, has had no object so much at heart as the maintainance of the British Constitution, of which the difficulties He has at times met with from His scrupulous attachment to the Rights of Parliament are sufficient proofs.

His Majesty is convinced that the sudden change of Sentiments of one Branch of the Legislature has totally incapacitated Him from either conducting the War with effect, or from obtaining any Peace but on conditions which would prove destructive to the Commerce as well as essential Rights of the British Nation.

His Majesty therefore with much sorrow finds He can be of no further Utility to His Native Country which drives Him to the painful step of quitting it for ever.

In consequence of which Intention His Majesty resigns the Crown of Great Britain and the Dominions appertaining thereto to His Dearly Beloved Son and lawful Successor, George Prince of Wales, whose endeavours for the Prosperity of the British Empire He hopes may prove more Successful.

No. 3602—*Lord Walsingham to the King.*

Upper Harley Spreet
March the 28th, 1782

Sire—I dare not venture to solicit the honour of an Audience from Your Majesty, engaged as Your Majesty's attention must be at present; but lest I should appear to be indifferent to the

honour of being one of Your Majesty's Servants, which is the favourite object of my life, I have thus humbly presumed to submit my wishes to Your Majesty's consideration :—at the same time most earnestly entreating Your Majesty not to suffer the favourable intention which I understand you was pleased to express to Lord North at a former period, and under other circumstances, to interfere in the smallest degree with any Appointment which may best suit Your Majesty's affairs in the present moment ; on the contrary I shall in such a case feel more Pride in being an humble instrument of accommodation, than in receiving even so grateful, if not a convenient favor.

Be assured, Sire, I shall always retain a deep sense of gratitude for the repeated obligations I have already received from Your Majesty's goodness, and the many marks of your Royal Favor, which you was pleased to extend to my Father, and above all for that most valuable hereditary Honor (and for the manner of conferring it) which I now so unworthily enjoy—and I do implore Your Majesty to rely on my implicit and unalterable attachment to your Person, Family and Government in every possible situation and extremity of affairs.

I have the honour to be, Sire, With the most dutiful respect and devotion, Your Majesty's most obedient and most humble subject and servant, WALSINGHAM.

No. 3603—*Mr. Fox to the King.*

[28 *March*, 1782]

Your Majesty's Servants, having taken into their consideration the enclosed Extract of the Prince Galitzin and Monsieur Markow's letter to Monsieur Simolin [*wanting*], which Monsieur Simolin delivered to me to-day, and having agreed upon the minute which I have the honour of sending inclosed to Your Majesty, I humbly beg to know when I can have the honour of taking Your Majesty's pleasure upon it, as the circumstances of the time make it very essential that there should be no delay in making this communication to the Prince Galitzin and Monsieur Markow, if it should meet with Your Majesty's approbation.

ST. JAMES'S, *Thursday night*
12 *o'clock.*

Enclosure.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

[In Mr Fox's handwriting.]

29th March, 1782

Present:—Ld. Chancellor, Ld. President, Ld. Privy Seal, D. of Richmond, Ld. Rockingham, Ld. Shelburne, Ld. Jno. Cavendish, Ld. Ashburton, Gen. Conway, Ad. Keppel, Mr. Fox.

It is humbly recommended to His Majesty to direct Mr. Fox to acquaint Monsieur Simolin that the King is willing to enter a treaty of Peace with Holland upon the footing of free Navigation, according to the Treaty of 1679, and that for the purpose of facilitating such treaty, His Majesty is willing to agree to an immediate cessation of hostilities, if that should be deemed an expedient measure by their H. Mightinesses.

N.B. This proposal is considered as a treaty commenced *de novo*.

No. 3604—*The King to Lord Cornwallis.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE,
March 28th, 1782

MY LORD—The whole tenour of your conduct has so manifestly shown that attachment to my Person, to your Country, and to the Military Profession are the motives of your actions that I am certain no fresh proof is necessary to the World for justice to be done you on that head. I therefore must desire you not from a false delicacy to think of resigning the Office of Constable of the Tower of London.

Had not a multiplicity of business prevented me, your very handsome offer should [not] have remained so many days unnoticed. GEORGE R.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3605—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—I have written to Lord Jersey to desire him to attend at St. James's to kiss Your Majesty's hand before Church, for Lord Bateman's Hounds. The Duke of Portland cannot give his Formal answer before Wednesday; Lord Scarborough the same, but Lord Rockingham assures me everything shall be finally closed against that day, and Your Majesty shall be previously apprized.

Lord Howe remained obstinate last night, notwithstanding every argument and every entreaty I could use. He was afterwards equally so about the Lieutenant General of the Ordnance for his Brother. I therefore have left it to Admiral Kepple to settle between him and the Duke of Richmond, and determined to interfere no further till I could acquaint Your Majesty it was settl'd.

Friday, 29th March, 1782. 10 *o'clock* A.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3606—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

Lord Shelburne, as well as writing to Lord Jersey has, I trust, wrote to Lord Aylesbury and Lord Rivers concerning their Lieutenancies. I shall certainly be on Wednesday in town for the presentation of those who are still to come into office, but I repeat it, I trust I am to be apprized by Ld Shelburne of the conclusion of those arrangements, not through any other channel.

The obstinacy of Lord Howe is not anything new. Lord Shelburne is very discreet in letting Admiral Keppel be the negociator between him and the D. of Richmond, as I am certain it will be very extraordinary if both come to agree.

G. R.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

Queen's House. *March 27th,* 1782
m. 50 *pt.* 8 A.M.

No. 3607—*The King to Mr Fox.*

If Mr Fox will be by half hour past eleven this day at St. James's, I shall be ready to hear what he has to communicate on the subject of the Minute he has sent me, which I have as usual kept, trusting he has another copy : if not I shall give it to him when I see him at St. James's, this day, that he may take a copy and return it to me.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

Queen's House. *March 29th*, 1782
m. 59 *pt.* 7 A.M.

No. 3608—*Mr Fox to the King.*

[29 *March*, 1782]

Mr. Fox humbly submits to Your Majesty his opinion that little can be concluded from the inclosed dispatches [*wanting*], till Monsieur de Simolin has communicated the orders he has received ; but at the same time begs leave humbly to submit to Your Majesty whether it is not necessary at all events to send a Messenger on Tuesday to Sir James Harris to inform him of the message delivered by Mr. Fox to Monsieur de Simolin this day.

St. James, *Friday*. 10 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 3609—*The King to Mr Fox.*

Queen's House, *March 29th*, 1782
m. 47 *pt.* 10 P.M.

Undoubtedly, Sir Js. Harris not having any hint of the contents of the Dispatches brought by the Russian Courier to Mons. Simolin, it is impossible to guess what they contain, but it may not be leaning too much to the side of suspicion to imagine that He would not have found the Secret so impenetrable, had their matter been agreeable. The sending a Messenger on Tuesday

to Sir James Harris with notice of the Message delivered this day to the Russian Minister will be very proper.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3610—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

[30 *March*, 1782]

I trouble Your Majesty with the Admiralty Warrant for signing, as it is much wanted. The delay of it was owing to some doubt Admiral Kepple had about settling the precedence.

I have the honour to inclose to Your Majesty a copy of my letter to Lord Aylesbury. [*Wanting.*]

10 *m. past* 8 A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3611—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

30 *March*, 1782

The writer of the accompanying paper [*see p. 432*] came to me at ½ past ten this morning. I have made him write down the substance of his Intelligence that I might without loss of time lay it before Your Majesty. I have been entirely taken up with the State of New York, and the other Fortifications and Garrisons under Sir Guy Carleton's Command. I find it so very alarming that I imagine Your Majesty will think no time is to be lost in dispatching him. I am going to the Cabinet, the result of which I will immediately communicate to Your Majesty, and take Your Majesty's pleasure, when I may attend Your Majesty, in case you should think it proper to dispatch Sir Guy Carleton instantly.

20 *m. pt.* 12 P.M. *Thursday* 30*th March*
[*the* 30*th was Saturday*]

No. 3612—*Memorandum of Lord Shelburne for the King.*

[? *March* 1782]

Enclosure.

Lord Surry. Mr. Powis. Sir John Rous.	Independent Men who decline office, with professions of great respect to Your Majesty.
Mr. Lyster.	The same. Ld Rockingham states him as a friend of his.
Lord Cholmondeley.	Ld. Shelburne begs to recommend him most earnestly to Your Majesty, and will answer for his probity and gratitude.
Lord Ossory.	looks to Peerage. Lord Shelburne has recommended it to him to cultivate Your Majesty's favour and merit it by his conduct in all respects.
Mr. Eliot.	He looks to Peerage. He returns *seven* Members of Parliament, has a very great fortune, and uncommon Personal weight in Cornwall, where the King wants an able person of influence ; would humbly recommend him to Your Majesty's remembrance when Peers are made, as a measure which he is certain will answer to Your Majesty. The Warden of the Stannaries may be left for Sir Francis Bassett, if Your Majesty thinks fit, at a future time, altho' his line of conduct would make it improper at present, as it is so opposite to the present arrangement.

No. 3613—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

The Writer of the Paper that accompanies this has not afforded new matter, but a melancholy confirmation of the American dependency on France.

Undoubtedly the sooner Sir Guy Carleton can be dispatched to America the better.

I shall be ready to receive Ld Shelburne as soon as he comes from the Cabinet this day.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *March 30th*, 1782. *m.* 40 *past* 2 P.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

[Henry Laurens, late President of the American Congress, was captured at sea in the autumn of 1780, while on his way to open negotiations in Holland, and was committed a close prisoner to the Tower. The Opposition made violent statements that he was ill treated there ; but this does not appear to be the fact.

Digges has been summed up by Horace Walpole as " so infamous a fellow that Dr. Franklin said of him that *if Digges were not damned the devil would be useless* " ; but whether this testimony of two enemies should be accepted is another question.]

Enclosure.

[Copy in the King's handwriting.]

Mr. Adams, Dr. Franklin, Mr. Jay, Mr. Laurens and Mr. Jefferson are the Commissioners in Europe to treat for Peace.

Their Powers are to treat and *conclude* with the Ambassadors, Plenipotentiaries or Commissioners of the States with whom it may concern. Each of them are vested with equal powers relative to the Establishment of Peace, and a Majority of them, or any *one* (the others not being able to attend) can treat and conclude.

Mr. Adams cannot speak to any proposition of a direct tendency to Truce or Peace from England without consulting his Colleagues, and from them it must be expected to go to the French Ministers, the other Belligerent Powers having as yet no right to expect information about any Propositions for Peace.

There may however questions be asked Mr. Adams and his Colleagues that they may not think essentially necessary to communicate to the French Court. And any proper Messengers sent to ask such questions will be answered with confidential secrecy.

Mr. Digges read over Mr. Adams's Commission ; it is dated the 15th June 1781, and his Powers (which are exactly the same as the other Four) are as full as possible, and go to conclude as well as treat for Peace.

Mr. Adams's first Commission appointed him to the Court of

Great Britain, and this was in force until about the beginning of Sept. 1781, when the above Commission jointly with the other four was received in Europe ; And it was so altered by Congress for no other reason than some ill treatment of the Americans by the British Army in South Carolina, and from the unfavourable treatment shown Mr. Laurens in the Tower.

Mr. Digges has Mr. Adams's assurance that any questions put to him as to further consulting upon the mode of opening a Parley or entering into a Treaty shall be confidentially and secretly answered. And although his, Mr. Adams's, name stands first in the Commission, any direct propositions made to Dr. Franklin will be equally attended to.

Mr. Digges leaves these Memorandums with Lord Shelburne for the purpose of His Lordship's communicating them to any others of the present Administration whom Mr. Digges has not the honour to know.

Endorsed by the King. Mr. Digges's Account of what passed between him and Mr Adams.

No. 3614—*Mr Fox to the King.*

30*th Mar.* 1782

The inclosed letters [*wanting*] which Mr. Fox has just received from Mr. Thomas Townsend, will explain to Your Majesty all that Mr. Fox himself knows of the case of Richard Lewis. But it is submitted to Your Majesty whether it would not be advisable at all events to give a short respite in order to give time to inquire further into the circumstances of this unhappy man's crime.

St. James's, *ten o'clock. Saturday* 30*th March*, 1782

Inscribed by the King,

Directed a respite to be sent to Leicester and the Judge to report on the case.

Queen's House, *March* 30*th*, 1782
m. 35 *pt.* 10 P.M.

No. 3615—*Admiral Keppel to the King.*

Admiral Keppel has the honour to transmit to Your Majesty the Minutes of a Meeting of the Cabinet this day, and begs to know at what hour he may have the honour to attend Your Majesty to-morrow to receive Your Commands thereupon.

Audley Square, *March 30th*, 1782
m. 35 *past* 10 P.M.

Inscribed by the King,

Appointed him to be at a quarter after eleven in the morning at St. James's and bring a copy of the Minute of Cabinet.

m. 22 *pt.* 11 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

Enclosure.

Minute of Cabinet.

[In Admiral Keppel's handwriting.]

March 30th, 1782

Present :—Ld Chancellor, Ld President, Ld Privy Seal, D. of Richmond, Ld Shelburne, Ld John Cavendish, Ld Ashburton, Ld Rockingham, Gen. Conway, Ad. Keppel, Mr. Fox.

It is humbly recommended to His Majesty that a fleet consisting of twelve sail of the line should be forthwith sent out on a cruise to last till the 25th April for the purpose of intercepting the Dutch E. Indiamen which it is supposed will be convoyed from Cadiz to Port L'Orient by five French ships of the line, and possibly four Spanish, and of preventing any force from sailing from the port of Brest.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3616—*Admiral Keppel to the King.*

Admiral Keppel has the honour to transmit to Your Majesty two letters received by this day's post from Captain Pole of the

Success, one of them giving an account of his having captured a Spanish Frigate of 36 guns, after an Action to all appearances highly creditable to Your Majesty's flag and honourable to Captain Pole and his Officers; the other letter, the purport of the Order he had given to the Vernon transport.

Admiral Keppel has also the honour to add a letter received at the same time from Lord Longford, upon his return from Commodore Sir Richard Bickerton.

AUDLEY SQUARE, *March* 31*st*, 1782
30 *m. past* 10 *o'clock* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3617—*The King to Admiral Keppel.*

WINDSOR, *April* 1*st*, 1782
m. 20 *pt.* 7 A.M.

I should hope Ad. Keppel not only sees the conduct of Capt. Pole in the action with the Spanish Frigate which he took and afterwards burnt as meritorious, but also that his reasons for getting home so expeditiously are judicious.

Lord Longford's letter is pleasing, as it shows the East India Fleet had at that time met with no accident.

Draft, written on a page of Admiral Keppel's letter of 31*st March.*

No. 3618.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

[In the handwriting of Lord Shelburne.]

Saturday, 30*th March*, 1782

Present:—Lord Chancellor, Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Duke of Richmond, Lord Rockingham, Lord John Cavendish, Lord Ashburton, General Conway, Mr Fox, Lord Shelburne.

It is humbly recommended to His Majesty that Sir Guy Carleton should be instantly sent to his Command, with instructions to withdraw the Garrison etc of New York to Halifax,

using his discretion as to *Mode* and *Time*. That the like instruction be given to him relative to the Garrisons of Charles Town and Savannah. That the like instruction be given to him relative to the Garrisons over the rest of N. America for the purpose of compleating the Defences of any Part which may become the Object of Attack, the remainder to expect Orders from hence, which will be forwarded from Halifax in due time, recommending it to the best efforts of the General and Admiral to send a Reinforcement to Barbadoes or such other of the British Islands as may be more convenient for the purpose of such distribution as may be judged requisite by the Commanders there.

Presented as above :— *1st April*, 1782

It is humbly submitted to the King that the Recruit, now under orders for New York should be ordered with all convenient speed to Halifax.

No. 3619.

Admty Office
31 *Mar.* 1782

A List of His Majesty's Ships to be put under the Command of the Honourable Vice-Admiral Barrington.

Guns.			
100	Britannic . . .	Capt.	Hill.
100	Victory		Cromwell.
90	Ocean		Cleland.
90	Union		Dalrymple.
80	Foudroyant . . .		Jervis.
74	Alexander . . .	Lord	Longford.
,,	Bellona		Onslow.
,,	Edgar		Montroy.
,,	Dublin		Dickson.
,,	Fortitude . . .		Keppel.
,,	Goliath	Sir H.	Parker.
64	Sampson . . .		Harvey.

No. 3620—*Lord Rockingham to the King.*

Treasury Chamber.
Monday p.m. 1 *o'clock*
April 1*st*, 1782

Lord Rockingham humbly begs leave to inform His Majesty that if His Majesty is graciously pleased to appoint The Duke of Portland to the Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland, the Duke of Portland will attempt to execute so important a Trust with all possible Duty, attention and Fidelity.

In this case, Lord Rockingham would humbly propose to His Majesty, that the Duke of Manchester should be appointed to the Office of Lord Chamberlain.

The Lord Lieutenancy of Ireland, and the Lord Chamberlain's Offices being thus filled, Lord Rockingham would humbly submit to His Majesty whether the immediate resignation of the Lord Steward would remain necessary, in point of any arrangement which now presses. Lord Rockingham much wishes to avoid any new or additional expenses upon the Civil Establishment, unless in urgent cases, as it is already so grievously overloaded.

Lord Rockingham humbly requests His Majesty's permission to attend him at any hour in the forenoon on Wednesday, if not intruding upon any other disposition of His Majesty's time.

No. 3621—*The King to Lord Rockingham.*

Windsor, *April* 1*st*, 1782
m. 40 *pt.* 4 p.m.

As the Duke of Portland has decided in favour of the office of Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, I cannot possibly say anything against it, as it was part of the original proposal that he should have the choice of that Office or the Chamberlain's Staff. He having chosen the former, I shall not object to the Duke of Manchester's having the Chamberlain's staff, and am glad so old a servant as Lord Talbot by this avoids the mortification of being removed.

I shall be ready to receive Lord Rockingham at St James's

at half hour after twelve on Wednesday, if he wishes to see me previous to the Levee ; if not as soon as that is over.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3622—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North is sensible that it must appear very improper for him to trouble His Majesty on any occasion, and nothing but his experience of His Majesty's goodness, his long friendship for the Writer of the inclosed note [*wanting*], added to the knowledge he has of her merit and her distress, would have prevailed upon him to communicate the inclosure to His Majesty, and to submit it to his gracious consideration. His Majesty will perceive that there was no intention in the writer that Lord North should communicate the Note itself, but Lord North thought that writer could best state her own condition and wishes, and has therefore sent the note exactly as he received it. To the best of Lord North's recollection, the assertion at the end of the Note is true. Mr. John Pelham was Secretary for many years, under different Chamberlains, and Sir Robert Willmot acted in that capacity under the D. of Devonshire, the D. of Marlborough, the D. of Portland, Lord Gower and Lord Hertford. Both one and the other continued in their office till they died.

Mrs. Keene takes it for granted that Mr. Keene must lose his office at the Board of Works. Lord North does not believe that she would otherwise be so uneasy and importunate. The loss of both places will go very deep in their means of subsistence.

Bushey Park. *Monday April* 1, 1782

No. 3623—*Admiral Keppel to the King.*

Admiral Keppel has the honour to acquaint Your Majesty that Lord Howe was this morning with him, when he expressed his readiness to take Command of the Fleet. Admiral Keppel will have the honour to explain to Your Majesty fully upon the subject when he has next the honour to attend him.

Audley Square, *April* 1*st*, 1782
30 *m. past* 11 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 3624—*The King to Admiral Keppel.*

WINDSOR, *April 2nd*, 1782
m. 50 *past* 7 A.M.

It is very agreeable that so distinguished an Officer as Lord Howe has expressed his readiness to take the Command of the Fleet; I trust therefore Admiral Keppel will lose no time in ordering his Flagg to be hoisted, and in settling his Ship.

Draft, written on a page of Admiral Keppel's letter.

No. 3625—*Lord Rockingham to the King.*

Lord Rockingham's most respectful duty to His Majesty, and will according to His Majesty's orders have the honour of attending His Majesty at half past twelve o'clock to-morrow.

Lord Rockingham humbly begs leave to state to His Majesty that as Admiral Keppel is to be at Epsom before noon to-morrow morning, to attend at the County Meeting for the Choice of Nomination of their Member, may Lord Rockingham be permitted by Your Majesty to impower Admiral Keppel to express Your Majesty's great goodness to him in the Honour intended of creating him a Peer.

Admiral Keppel humbly desires to leave himself at Your Majesty's disposal, but some disturbances in the County may probably be prevented, if Admiral Keppel has Your Majesty's permission to make the Declaration at the Meeting of the County to-morrow at twelve o'clock.

GROSVENOR SQUARE. *Tuesday* P.M. 2 *o'clock*
Apr ye 2nd, 1782

No. 3626—*The King to Lord Rockingham.*

WINDSOR, *April 2nd*, 1782
m. 44 *past* 5 P.M.

I cannot have the smallest objection to Admiral Keppel's acquainting the Meeting at Epsom to-morrow that he is to be

removed into the House of Peers. Lord Rockingham may therefore acquaint him of this; indeed I thought what I said to the Admiral on Sunday last had fully authorised his making that declaration.

Draft, written on a page of Lord Rockingham's letter of same date.

No. 3627—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—The Frigate which is to carry Sir Guy Carleton, has not been ready, which has made me deferr troubling Your Majesty with his letter of Instructions till Your Majesty's return to Town.

Lord Howe accepts the Command of the Fleet in terms of great Duty to Your Majesty, which I will have the honour to explain to your Majesty more particularly.

I am mortified, notwithstanding I have taken all the pains possible, that I have not been able to get the arrangement closed this day, as I promised Your Majesty, in consequence of Lord Rockingham's promise to me. But some of his Friends are still absent, others undecided. I hope however it will be entirely closed on *Fryday*.

I have written to Lord De Ferrows [*sic*] to attend at St. James's this day, but have not yet been able to be informed from the Office, whether the Form is for him to kiss hands at the Levee or receive the Staff in the Closet.

It is my duty to apprize Your Majesty that Lord Rockingham will probably attempt an explanation upon his want of Power in this arrangement, or at least his apprehension of a want of it in future. I have endeavour'd to tranquillize his mind, in a friendly visit which he paid me till late last night, by assuring him that nothing would make me so unhappy as to see the Union of Your Majesty's Government, which Your Majesty has given such ample means of establishing, interrupted by squabbles about Places, which must finally dissgust both Your Majesty and the Publick.

I have the honour and Happiness to be, with the highest respect, Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject and devoted servant,

Shelburne.

Wednesday, 3*rd April*, 1782. 5 *m. past* 11 A.M.

No. 3628—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

St. James's, *April 3rd*, 1782
m. 58 *pt.* 11 A.M.

It was natural to suppose the Frigate ordered to carry Sir Guy Carleton could not be ready quite so soon as wished, but it must be also remembered that the Wind is so very contrary that as yet no time has been lost by it.

I am glad Lord Howe has accepted the Command of the Fleet, and shall be glad to learn from Lord Shelburne when I see him this day the result of his Conversation.

The delay in finishing the arrangements is really mortifying, but I know Lord Shelburne has done all he could to get it forward.

Lord de Ferrers is not to be presented at the Levee; Lord Edgecumbe must deliver up the Gold Stick in my Closet, and then I shall send for Lord de Ferrers and deliver it to him.

I am much obliged to Lord Shelburne for apprizing me of what has passed with Lord Rockingham; He wrote to me yesterday, and has desired me to see him before the Levee this day; I shall now know how to suit my language, and trust with temper and steadiness things may be kept right.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3629—*Admiral Keppel to the King.*

Admiral Keppel has the honour to send to Your Majesty Vice Admiral Sir Peter Parker's Letter of the 14th of February 1782 from Jamaica, and a letter from Captain Pole, of the Success Frigate, relative to the movement of Monsieur de Guichen's Squadron, with some Spanish Ships of the Line in junction; And also a letter from Mr. Wentworth, inclosing a state of the Dutch Naval force.

Admiral Keppel begs to know when he may have the honour of attending Your Majesty to take your Commands.

Admiralty Office, *April 4th*, 1782
2 *minutes past four o'clock* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3630—*The King to Admiral Keppel.*

WINDSOR, *April 4th*, 1782
m. 12 *pt.* 8 P.M.

I have read the papers Admiral Keppel has sent Me, I do not see anything in them that requires any particular directions from Me; the Admiral after He has weighed what credit is to be given to the intelligence concerning Mons. de Guichen's Squadron will lay it before the Ministers, and He has my authority to pursue such measures as shall on the occasion be thought advisable. Upon this I should immagine the Admiral will see nothing else is necessary but the sending to me a Copy of the Minute of Cabinet that will be formed, which has been the usual mode of his Predecessors.

Draft, much corrected, endorsed by the King.

No. 3631—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

[5 *April*, 1782]

SIR—I saw Mr. Eden for a short time before Dinner yesterday, and for two hours at Night. I talked to him so far as regarded both himself and Lord Carlisle in the most conciliatory manner I could, but finding whatever impression I might personally make upon him, I could never reconcile him on the part of Lord Carlisle to the change being made without concert, I thought it most prudent, least I might irritate him, to have on paper whatever he might wish me to lay before Your Majesty. I have the Honour to inclose his letter [*wanting*].

I likewise have the Honour to send what I received yesterday, concerning Mr. Lawrence, with whom I had this morning a very long and open conversation. I found him *misinformed* to a great degree, owing either to delicacy or prudence, which have prevented his holding any correspondence directly or indirectly, with any Person abroad, even with his own Family. He dwelt upon acknowledging the Independance, or withdrawing the Troops, as a desirable if not a necessary Preliminary, as well as Ultimatum. I found him at the same time fundamentally averse to France, and I believe unaffectedly disposed to Your

Majesty's Person. He is ready to go to Mr. Adams, to ask those questions, which Mr. Digges says Mr. Adams is ready to answer confidentially without communicating with France, and from the general turn of his mind and conversation, I am persuaded he is the most likely person to establish a confidential Intercourse. I will ask the Chancellor to-day, what method can be taken to dispense with his appearance in the King's Bench, which now stands fixed for the first day of Term.

I have been surpris'd since I took up my Pen with a letter from Dr. Franklin. I immediately sent for Lord Cholmondeley who tells me much of the disposition to Peace, and refers to a conversation which Sir William Draper had upon the subject with Monsr. de Vergennes. I have sent to desire to see Sir William to-morrow morning, and I have appointed to see Mr. Oswald this evening, that he may be ready, in case it should be thought fit to send to sound Dr. Franklin, to prevent the appearance of Preference between him and Mr. Adams.

Lord Cholmondeley knew nothing of the contents of Dr. Franklin's letter.

I have the honour to be, with the highest Respect Your Majesty's most Dutyfull subject and faithfull Servant,

SHELBURNE.

Undated, but endorsed by the King, E. of Shelburne. April 5, 1782.

No. 3632—*The King to Lord Chancellor Thurlow.*

WINDSOR, *April 5th*, 1782

MY LORD—I stated to you shortly on Thursday that the Ms. of Rockingham had been with me that morning, wanting to get all Patronage into his hands, to the exclusion of Ld. Shelburne; not satisfied with the lengths He had gone, He came after You left Me and begun the subject again. I said I would see how I could accommodate them both; when Ld Shelburne was with me he expressed an uneasiness lest I should yield to the importunities of Lord Rockingham, which would reduce him to a Secretary of State, acting under the former, instead of a Colleague; He pressed me at the same time to state something on Paper, as the only means of finally concluding this, which I fear is the real Object of an English Modern Minister, and adding

that he found that the Marquis did not exactly remember what had passed in Conversation ; that therefore a paper once drawn up would be a line to act upon, and save me from continual importunities on this subject. I have therefore drawn up the enclosed rough draught, which it has been my object to render equally civil to both, and to leave the further discussion to themselves. I wish you would coolly examine it, and make any alterations or additions you may think likely to answer the purpose, and send it to-morrow morning to the Queen's House. I shall be in town that day, that I may see Lord Shelburne on the subject.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

Enclosure.

Memorandum by the King.

When the King found himself necessitated to form a new Administration, He resolved to place it on a broad basis, as most conducible to heal the divisions that distract the Kingdom, as well as most creditable to Himself. This was the plan that the E. of S. was expected to set forward. He was assured that he should not only be fully consulted on the Plan of the new Administration, and that the changes proposed should be communicated to the King by Him, but that after the Administration should be formed, all Ecclesiastical and Civil Preferments should be jointly recommended by the Marquis of Rockingham and Him, which seemed the more natural, as the Administration was proposed to continue on the Plan it was formed, a broad basis, and that persons who like the above two Noblemen had accepted Offices only from a view of being servisable to their Country at a perillous time, could have no other wish but to recommend the best and Ablest Men on all occasions, and consequently must rejoice at being obliged to consult together, as the means most conducible of having such vacancies filled up to the Advantage of the State.

It is hoped that the question is now so fully stated that when the Earl of Shelburne has shown this paper and explained it to the Marquis of Rockingham, both will see that there is not the smallest difficulty in conducting the line of recommendations to their mutual satisfaction.

Draft.

No. 3633—*Lord Chancellor Thurlow to the King.*

Friday 4th April [1782]

Sir—I will endeavour to obey Your Majesty's Commands in the best manner I am able. Your Majesty will not be surprised that I am unable to give any more particular answer upon the sudden, especially as my first hesitation is upon the propriety of giving any written answer at all to such an application.

I am, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutifull subject and faithful servant, Thurlow.

Endorsed by the King,

Ld Chancellor March [*sic*] 5, 82

No 3634—*Mr. Fox to the King.*

Your Majesty will perceive that in Mr. Justice Buller's Report there is no favourable circumstance to Richard Lewis. If Mr. Fox could have collected any, it should have undoubtedly been laid before Your Majesty.

St. James's, 3 *o'clock* p.m. *April* 5, 1782

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3635—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

Windsor, *April 5th*, 1782
m. pt. 6 p.m.

Lord Shelburne knows enough of Mr. Eden not to be surprised, I am certain, at his warmth on the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland being removed more cavalierly than ever was known before : the account of the conversation with Mr. Laurens is very curious, and I should from this suppose him not improper to be sent to Mr. Adams ; the getting Mr Oswald at the same time to sound Mr. Franklin cannot be improper : I was thoroughly resolved not to open my mouth on any Negotiation with America, but as it falls to the share of Ld. Shelburne, the very handsome part He has acted in the whole Negotiation for forming the present Administration obliges me now and then to give a hint.

No. 3636—*Lord Chancellor Thurlow to the King.*

[? 6 *April*, 1782]

Sir—I went directly from Your Majesty to Lord Shelburne to carry him Your Majesty's Commands to wait upon Your Majesty forthwith; but he was not at home, and his return consequently uncertain, I could not venture to leave that message for him. But, if Your Majesty thinks fit to name any hour this evening, or to-morrow morning for that purpose, I will forthwith deliver or transmit to him Your Majesty's pleasure.

I am, Sir, Your Majesty's most dutiful subject and faithful servant, Thurlow.

No. 3637—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—From a good deal of conversation which I have had since I attended Your Majesty, I cannot help submitting to Your Majesty, whether it might not be more convenient to say to Lord Rockingham what Your Majesty has committed to writing, considering Your Majesty has prepar'd the words, and will have them in your possession. It appears an object to protract this Discussion at a time when Light is wanting, which a short time may produce.

I have written to Lord Hertford to attend to deliver up his Staff after the Drawing Room.

I have the honour to be, with the truest devotion, Your Majesty's dutyfull subject and faithfull servant, Shelburne.

Saturday, 6 *April*, 1782. ½ *past* 12 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3638—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

Queen's House, *April 7th*, 1782
m. past 9 A.M.

In consequence of Lord Shelburne's note, I shall if Lord Rockingham enters this day again upon the subject of Patronage, in conversation, give the Substance of the Paper prepared yester-

day, as He thinks this method will gain time; but He must be aware it will not prevent discussions between Ld Shelburne and Ld. Rockingham.

Draft, written on a page of Lord Shelburne's letter of 6 *April*, 1782.

No. 3639—*The King to Lords Rockingham and Shelburne.*

That no mistake may arise in the conducting of business, and to make things as much as is in my power both agreeable to the Marquis of Rockingham and the Earl of Shelburne, I have drawn up the enclosed Paper, of which I send at the same time a Copy to each, and trust when they have conversed together, it cannot fail to meet with their hearty concurrence. GEORGE R.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *April 7th*, 1782.

There is another copy of this same letter, with a copy of the enclosure to No. 3632.

Enclosure.

Memorandum by the King.

When the King found Himself necessitated to form a new Administration, He resolved to place it on a broad basis, as most conducible to heal the Divisions that distract the Kingdom, as well as most creditable to Himself: this was the plan which the Earl of Shelburne was expected to set forward; but to cement the Administration more, the King forbore to make the bottom wider. It is for that purpose, He is earnest to assure the Marquis of Rockingham and the Earl of Shelburne that he will receive the advice of both separately with great attention, but certainly with the more if it meets with the concurrence of the other, and He flatters Himself Persons like the above Noblemen who have accepted Offices only from a view of being servisable to their Country at a perillous time, can have no other wish than to recommend the best and ablest men on all occasions, and consequently must rejoice at being obliged to consult together, as the means most conducible of having such Vacancies filled up to the Advantage of the State.

No. 3640—*Admiral Keppel to the King.*

Admiral Keppel has the honour to send to Your Majesty the extract of a letter brought to Liverpool from St Lucia, giving an account of Admiral Sir George Rodney's arrival in those seas, and of the force of the French and Spanish ships in those parts.

Admiralty Office. *April 8th*, 1782
4 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 3641—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—I have written to Lord Salisbury, fixed with Lord Camden the Council for Wednesday, and will take care of Your Majesty's other commands for Fryday.

Inclosed I have the honour to send Your Majesty the Minute just now concluded, and the Messages for Your Majesty's signature, if Your Majesty approves the same.

I have the honour to be, with great devotion, Your Majesty's dutifull subject and faithful servant, Shelburne.

St. James's. 8*th April* 1782. ¾ *past* 12 *at night*

Enclosure.

Minute of Cabinet.

8*th April*, 1782

Present:—Lord Chancellor, Lord President, Lord Rockingham, Lord John Cavendish, Admiral Keppel, General Conway, Mr. Fox, Lord Shelburne, Lord Ashburton.

It is submitted to His Majesty that the Duke of Portland be instructed, if His Grace arrives in Ireland in sufficient time, to propose an Adjournment to both Houses, and that it be left to his discretion if necessary, to send a Message to both Houses within the Terms of that proposed to be sent to both Houses here, and that he may be to concert with the principal persons upon the mode of bringing forward Propositions for the final adjustment of whatever is depending between both Kingdoms, assuring them that it is the sincere intention of His Majesty's Ministers to come to a speedy settlement of the same, in a manner that may be advantageous to both Kingdoms.

No. 3642—*The King to Admiral Keppel.*

WINDSOR, *April 9th*, 1782. *m. pt.* 7 A.M.

It is fortunate that Sir G. Rodney has safely arrived; it is to be hoped that there is some mistake in stating the French Fleet to amount, at Martinique, to 40 Sail of the Line, exclusive of the 13 Sail of Spaniards.

Draft, written on a sheet of Admiral Keppel's letter of 8th April, 1782. Below, in the King's handwriting,

Extract.

The Barbara Perry arrived at Liverpool; left St. Lucia 24th February. Rodney has arrived and sailed to Antigua in hopes of relieving St. Kitts, while Hood sailed to Barbadoes, where Rodney followed him.

13 Sail of Spaniards arrived at Dominique, the French refitting at Martinique said to be upwards of 40 Sail of the Line: they mention publicly going against Jamaica.

No. 3643—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

WINDSOR, *April 9th*, 1782
m. 30 *past* 7 A.M.

Having signed the Messages to the two Houses of Parliament, I return them to Lord Shelburne; it may be refinement in Me, but his expressing in his Note that accompanied the Minute of Cabinet, its having been just concluded, I doubt whether he has a copy of it: I therefore return it, and trust I shall receive to-morrow from him it again.

Draft, written on a page of Lord Shelburne's letter of 8th April, 1782.

No. 3644—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

[10 *April*, 1782]

SIR—I had kept a copy of the Minute, but I am infinitely sensible of your Majesty's goodness to me in everything.

It is my duty to suggest to Your Majesty, that it may be of great consequence to Your Majesty's affairs, that Your Majesty should signifie to the Duke of Portland, in whatever terms Your Majesty thinks most likely to make an impression upon his character, that Your Majesty has the firmest reliance on his Honour and Attachment to Your Majesty's Crown, and to enjoin him to keep out of sight all *new* pretensions or wishes on the part of Ireland, that none such may become the subject of Treaty, at a time when it is so disadvantageous for his Country to treat at all, if it could be avoided. I write in haste, having only this moment finished a long conversation with His Grace to this purpose and have left him I think open to these impressions from Your Majesty.

Lord Howe and Admiral Keppel and Lord Tankerville will have the honour to kiss Your Majesty's hand to-day, Lord Rockingham undertook to speak to Lord Effingham, Lord Ludlow, and I believe the Duke of Bolton.

I have the honour to be Your Majesty's faithfull and Devoted subject, SHELBURNE.

Wednesday. ½ *past* 12 P.M.

Endorsed by the King, E. of Shelburne April 10, 1782.
m. 30 pt. M.

No. 3645—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

SIR—As Your Majesty expressed a desire of knowing when a Cabinet was to meet, I presume to intrude upon Your Majesty to acquaint you, that as I was going out of Your Majesty's closet, the Duke of Richmond told me in passing that Lord Rockingham wish'd a Cabinet to-morrow on the Establishment Bill, and while I am writing, I have a Note from Lord Rockingham, which I send Your Majesty. Your Majesty may depend upon my strictest attention to this business, as well as that I feel myself both inclined and bound upon very disinterested principles to prove myself, with high respect,

Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject and faithfull servant,

Wednesday, 10 *April*, 82. ¾ *past* 6 P.M. SHELBURNE.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3646—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *April 10th*, 1782
m. 20 *pt.* 7 P.M.

The Note I have just received from Lord Shelburne is an additional proof of his cordiality; I am glad the Establishment Bill is to be laid before the Cabinet on Friday, as I trust Lord Shelburne and the Chancellor will concert before together and with the Meeting do for the best; and at worst keep me out of the business, that I may rather acquiesce in the Measure than be an encourager of it: I think this is so fair that no one in reason can expect more from me.

No. 3647—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

SIR—I had written yesterday morning to Your Majesty to desire the Honour of attending Your Majesty to receive your further Instructions upon the business of this day's Cabinet, but finding Your Majesty gone to Kew, and finding myself confirmed in the opinion, which had been the result of the best consideration I could give the subject, after weighing the State of things, and every consequence which might take place, that It is Impossible for this matter to proceed so rapidly as not to give Your Majesty ample time for consideration even upon the first step, I thought it best for many reasons not to trouble Your Majesty yesterday. I have now only to assure Your Majesty that this matter has dwelt upon my mind since you first commanded me to consider it, and that it shall continue to have every honest attention. Your Majesty will find that I have omitted nothing, consistent with propriety to Your Majesty or safety to Your Affairs, nor will I make use of the power of communication Your Majesty allows me, no more than of any other you are pleased to confide in me, except I find it absolutely necessary for your Service. I trust in Your Majesty's firmness, that such occasional Irritations will not seriously affect Your Majesty's health, which is of so much consequence to Your People, and very dear to Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject and Faithfull Servant SHELBURNE.

12*th April* 1782. ½ *past* 10

P.S. Inclosed is the Message [*wanting*] prepared by Lord Ashburton and approved by the Chancellor. The words dotted

under I believe will be prudent to change, and in their room to insert *must ever be*, as general words which will leave least room for cavilling. I will take care to attend Your Majesty before two with the answer properly drawn out, which may give me a proper opportunity of apprizing Your Majesty of the turn things take in the Cabinet. In the meantime, if Lord Rockingham presses upon Your Majesty, I would submit it to you, whether it would be improper to insist upon time to speak to the Chancellor and myself upon the matter of *Fact*.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3648—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

Printed in Fitzmaurice's *Life of Lord Shelburne* ii. 105.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *April 12th*, 1782
m. 10 *pt.* 9 A.M.

The Cabinet being summoned to a Meeting this morning on the subject of what is called the Establishment Bill, I late last night thought it right to cast my eye on it, and finding some parts more revolting than others, to my mind, thought that the very handsome manner in which Lord Shelburne had spoken on this very unpleasant business to me, demanded my writing without reserve to him on this very personal subject, and my sending the copy I have of the old Bill, as printed when Mr. Burke was carrying it through the House of Commons, with written references on the margin, and the fate each clause had in the Committee. When Lord Shelburne has made his use of the Bill, I desire he will return this copy to me, but before I enter on this business it may not be improper for me to state what passed on this Measure to the best of my recollection with Lord Shelburne and afterwards with the Ms. of Rockingham.

When necessity made me yield to the advice of Ld. Shelburne in permitting him to offer the Treasury to the Marquis of Rockingham, four propositions were insisted upon by that Quarter :—

1°. No veto to the Independence of America.
2°. Contractor's Bill.
3°. Disqualification of Revenue Officers from voting at Elections of Members of Parliament.

4°. The reduction of several offices as proposed in Mr. Burke's Establishment Bill, and rigid Oeconomy in the Administration of the Civil List.

The answers I gave were, I hope, cautious and not unsatisfactory as to the three first, and therefore need not be repeated here ; as to the last I declared a willingness to introduce the most rigid oeconomy, but that I trusted it could not be meant under that word either to affect the Dignity of the Crown by reducing such Offices as had any Peculiar Attendance on the Person of the King, or to diminish its comforts by disabling it from those acts of Benevolence which alone make the Station bearable, but that I supposed it could be now settled by interior regulations, and was the object for the Attention of the Cabinet, as far as related [to] the interests of the Crown, as I thought Public Oeconomy the object of Parliament. Thus things stood till last week, when I found the language of the Marquis of Rockingham changed, and that his ideas began to run entirely on bringing the Civil List before Parliament, and within these two days he has avowed that he means to introduce the whole of Mr. Burke's Bill, and it was with the utmost difficulty I could prevent his taking such a step in the House of Commons without previously laying the matter before the Ministers, saying it was one of his four propositions, and therefore did not require any consultation. He means to-day to lay a Message before the Cabinet, which though I tried to avoid it, he obliged me to read yesterday, but on which I did not utter a syllable. Now, what I wish is

1. That Lord Shelburne will consider how far it is necessary for this business to be opened by a Message from me.
2. That the Bill if such a one is necessary be gone through clause by clause at the Cabinet, that the Ministers may coincide in it, and no diversity of opinion appear between them in either House of Parliament.
3. That those offices which have any peculiar attendance on the Crown may be continued by the present arrangement in page 3. The Treasurer of the Household and Comptroller of the Household have been virtually continued by being put into new hands, as also the Master of the Stag Hounds; The Master of the Robes must also be continued ; he has the peculiar

employment of carrying my train at the House of Peers as well as on all Ceremonies of the Garter.

4. In page 13. it is proposed that the Pensions as it is called in the Bill which at least ought to stand [? first in] the Establishments of the Royal Family and the King's Privy Purse which always are the Articles first paid, shall now stand the fifth in the order, which certainly is not creditable : they should still stand first.

5. No diminution of the Privy Purse which in reality is the only fund from whence I pay every act of private benevolence, every improvement in my Gardens and many articles of convenience for the Queen as well as myself.

I am certain Lord Shelburne must see by these remarks that I am moderate in my requests, and I only add that I should think nothing should be said of the surplus ; the Civil List is now much in arrears, the greatest oeconomy, I having fourteen children, I am confident will be necessary to make me clear my Debts, and at the same time make the necessary Establishments for my children ; undoubtedly should there ever be a Surplus, I do not want to hoard it up, but it would appear grating that Parliament should seize upon it ; the giving with one hand and taking away with the other does not seem very fair.

I should have stated that in page 4, there is something very grating in furnishing the Crown, as an hospital, by open Contract, and I am certain no one would now advise it, if it had not been a part of Mr. Burke's Bill, and much repprobated in the House, and therefore must now be passed to their power in that place. I may with truth add that Lord Shelburne has seemed very solicitous for my health, which undoubtedly is much interested in the fate of this business, if I am made uneasy in my private situation, how can it be expected I shall not severely feel it, and that it will add to my disquietude at having been forced to yield to the times.

It will be impossible to carry on the common affairs of my household if the different departments have not some money in hand on account,—for instance a Messenger is ordered to go abroad ; he cannot get his Money under some days if he is to wait for a Warrant to the Exchequer. Either the Secretary of State or the Lord Chamberlain's Office must be enabled to make

this advance. When an Horse is to be bought, if the Master of the Horse cannot have money in hand for that purpose, it is impossible to go on; besides the number of Persons must be immensely increased at the Exchequer if all payments are to be made there, and new departments must be so devised to do the business which laid in other hands.

If Lord Shelburne has any wish to consult the Chancellor in the different stages of this business, I do not object to his showing him this letter; all that can be done at Cabinet this day is to settle if a Message is to be sent, and that the Bill when framed shall be examined by the Cabinet before presented to Parliament.

Draft, with many corrections.

No. 3649—*Mr. Fox to the King.*

Nothing passed in the House of Commons to-day worthy Your Majesty's notice. The House sat till eight adjusting the different clauses of the Bill for excluding Contractors from Parliament, but there did not appear any opposition to the Bill but from Lord Nugent, who spoke early and finding no support, went away. Mr. Fox humbly begs to know of Your Majesty whether the Warrant for creating Mr. Turner a Baronet may be prepared and sent to Your Majesty.

St. James's, 11 *o'clock* P.M. *April* 12, 1782.

No. 3650—*The King to Mr. Fox.*

Mr. Fox may give notice to Lord Shelburne's Office for the preparation of the Warrant appointing Mr. Charles Turner a Baronet.

Queen's House, *April* 12*th*, 1782. *m.* 35 *pt.* 11 P.M.

Draft, written on a page of Mr. Fox's letter of same date.

No. 3651—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—I have the honour to return the Bill, and take the liberty of sending Your Majesty a Copy of it, which Col. Barré was so good [as] to make for me some time since.

I shall always think it my duty to prevent Your Majesty's being surprised on any occasion. I do not imagine anything of that sort will be attempted to-morrow, but if there is any reason to apprehend it, I will take care to apprize Your Majesty as soon as the Council breaks up, by a Note.

I have the honour to be, with high respect, Your Majesty's dutyfull subject and faithfull servant Shelburne.

13*th April*, 1782. *Saturday*, 25 *m. past* 9.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3652—*Mr Fox to the King.*

The letters from Vienna and Constantinople were accompanied with a large Packet for the Secretary to the East India Company, which was sent to Lord Shelburne's Office, and from thence forwarded to the India House: till the contents of that Packet are known, no exact judgment can be formed of the extent of the advantages gained in India; but Your Majesty will see enough in the papers which accompany this to be satisfied that they are very important.

Mr. Fox humbly submits to Your Majesty his opinion that the capture of the Dutch Settlements may be made great use of, in the present state of the negotiation between the States General and Your Majesty, and may if properly managed, be a means of restoring that cordiality which formerly subsisted between the two Countries.

Grafton Street. 10 *o'clock* P.M. *April* 13, 1782.

No. 3653—*The King to Mr Fox.*

The prospect of success in the East Indies is very fortunate, and as the Dutch are losing ground in that part of the globe

hourly, it may very fairly authorize Mr. Fox's hopes that they may, on the knowledge of it, be more willing to return to their old Connections with this Country.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *April 13th*, 1782. *m. pt.* P.M. [*sic*]

Draft, written on a page of Mr. Fox's letter of same date.

No. 3654—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

13 *April*, 1782

SIR—I have just now received the inclosed letter from Mr. Seymour. The return of his Servant gives me an opportunity of writing a line to Mr Oswald, and it is my intention if Your Majesty approves, to communicate Mr. Seymour's letter to Mr Fox.

I forwarded a pacquet to the India House sent me from Mr. Fox's Office, with a Note desiring an account of whatever news it contained, if interesting, for Your Majesty's information, which will be forwarded to Your Majesty as soon as received.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, Your Majesty's faithfull subject, SHELBURNE.

5 *m. past* 3, *Saturday.*

P.S. I have reason to believe Mr. Oswald and Mr. Lawrence arrived at Ostend on Wednesday evening.

No. 3655—*Admiral Keppel to the King.*

Admiral Keppel has the honour to transmit to Your Majesty a letter from Vice Admiral Barrington of the 12th instant, and one from Admiral Sir Thomas Pye from Spithead of this day's date, giving an account of Vice-Admiral Barrington's sailing with the Squadron under his command with the wind at N.N.W., and that they were round Bembridge Ledge. The Messenger left Portsmouth at one quarter past one o'clock.

Admiral Keppel has also the honour to send to Your Majesty a letter from the Captain of the Coventry at Bombay, of the 22nd Dec. 1781.

AUDLEY SQUARE. *April 13th*, 1782
40 *minutes past* 10 *o'clock* P.M.

No. 3656.

MINUTE OF CABINET.

[In the handwriting of Admiral Keppel.]

April 14*th*, 1782

Present:—Lord Chancellor, Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Duke of Richmond, Lord Rockingham, Lord Shelburne, Mr Fox, Lord John Cavendish, Lord Ashburton, General Conway, Admiral Keppel.

It is humbly recommended to Your Majesty that the Squadron sent to sea under the command of Vice-Admiral Barrington to cruise till the 25th April, to prevent the sailing of the equipment of ships and troops from Brest, be further directed to extend the cruise till the 5th of May, and it is further humbly recommended to Your Majesty that the Squadron should rendezvous at Torbay instead of Spithead, and that Lord Viscount Howe should be directed to assemble at Torbay the rest of the Force put under his Command as fast as the equipment of it will admit.

No. 3657—*Mr. Fox to the King.*

Mr. Fox sends Your Majesty only two copies of the Message, as he understands upon enquiry that it ought to go to the House of Commons only.

ST. JAMES'S, 10 *o'clock* P.M. *April* 14*th*, 1782.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3658—*Mr. Fox to the King.*

Upon further enquiry, Mr. Fox begs leave to inform Your Majesty that it appears that a Message was sent from Your Majesty to the House of Lords upon the business of the Civil List debts and therefore Mr. Fox humbly submits to Your Majesty that the same course should be pursued upon the present occasion.

GRAFTON STREET. 10 *o'clock* A.M. *April* 15*th*, 1782.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3659—*Mr. Fox to the King.*

Upon the Message from Your Majesty being read to the House of Commons, Mr. Burke moved, and Mr Powys seconded the Address, which Mr. Fox has the honour of sending to Your Majesty. It was carried *Nemine Contradicente*, and Mr. Fox thinks it his duty to inform Your Majesty that he never saw so general a satisfaction as appeared in the House upon this occasion. When this business was over, the Lord Advocate of Scotland stated to a Committee of the whole House forty-four Resolutions upon East India Affairs, which he intends to move on Monday next. Mr. Fox has the honour of sending Your Majesty copies of these intended Resolutions [*wanting*]. As there is no Treasurer, Comptroller or Vice Chamberlain now in the House of Commons, it will be Mr. Fox's duty to acquaint the House to-morrow that he has presented to Your Majesty their Address, and to report to them upon it.

St. James's. 10 *o'clock* P.M. *April* 15*th*, 1782

No. 3660—*Message of the King to Parliament.*

[15 *April*, 1782]

His Majesty, taking into consideration the supplies which have been given with so much liberality and supported with such uncommon firmness and fortitude by his People in the present extensive War recommends to his faithful Commons the consideration of an effectual plan of oeconomy through all the branches of the public expenditure towards which important object His Majesty has taken into his actual consideration a reform and regulation in his civil Establishment which he will shortly cause to be laid before this House desiring their assistance towards carrying the same more fully into execution.

His Majesty has no reserves with his People on whose affections he rests with a sure reliance as the best support of the true honour and dignity of his Crown and Government and as they have hitherto been his best resource upon every emergency so he regards them as the most solid and stable security for an honourable provision for his Person and Family. *Copy.*

No. 3661—*The King to Mr. Fox.*

Mr. Fox will give the usual answer on having delivered the Address of the House of Commons to Me.

WINDSOR, *April 16th*, 1782. *m.* 50 *past* 6 A.M.

Draft, written on a page of Mr. Fox's letter of 15th April 1782.

No. 3662—*Mr. Fox to the King.*

Mr Fox is very sorry to inform Your Majesty that all the news he has been able to collect from Holland is very unfavourable; but still hopes the Step that has been taken may be of service with respect to Russia.

The House of Commons sat till eight this evening upon the Second Reading of the Bill for taking away the votes of the Revenue Officers. Lord Nugent began the Opposition to it, and Sir Francis Basset divided the House, when the Numbers were, for the Bill eighty-seven; against it, twelve. Mr. Fox has the honour of sending to Your Majesty a list of the Gentlemen who spoke for and against the question.

ST. JAMES'S, 10 *o'clock* P.M. *April 16th*, 1782

Endorsed by the King.

Enclosure.

[In Mr. Fox's handwriting.]

Speakers for the Bill	Against
Mr. Crewe.	Lord Nugent.
Mr. Secretary at War.	Sir Francis Basset.
Mr. Montagu.	Mr. Percival.
Sir Edward Astley.	Mr. Penton.
Mr. Baker.	Mr. Davenport.
Mr. Sawbridge.	Mr. Gascoyne, Junr.
Mr. Powys.	Mr. Anne Poulett.

Speakers for the Bill	Against
Mr. Thomas Pitt.	Mr. Rosewarne.
Sir Philip Clarke.	
Mr. Cocks.	
Mr. Spencer Stanhope.	
Sir George Yonge.	
Lord John Cavendish.	
Mr. Byng.	

No. 3663—*Lord North to the King.*

[16 *April*, 1782]

The immense load of business that has constantly hung upon Mr. Robinson, and the many interruptions he has constantly met with, have prevented him from keeping up Lord North's private accounts with His Majesty as close as could have been wished; Lord North has been earnest with him to settle the accounts, and Mr Robinson has been as diligent as possible whenever it was in his power to work at them. They are, however, not yet completely settled, but will be, Lord North hopes, in a few days. These accounts are divided into two parts, the Election Account and the Quarterly Account. The Election Account is nearly adjusted and Lord North has the honour of enclosing a general state of it. In the two years, it has arisen to a great sum, owing principally to the great contested Elections in Surry, at Westminster, and at Bristol, at which last place there have been two contests; scarce any seats were to be had without money, aud all the contributions that were expected were not received. His Majesty will, however, perceive that upwards of Thirty Thousand Pounds has been brought to account in and of the Election Expenses. There is still to be received £1,000 from Lord Bute, and there is to be set on the other side of the account some expenses still unpaid for Surry, and some for the last Election at Colchester. Mr. Rigby spent £7,000 at the latter place, and wishes to be assisted with half his expense but Lord North imagines that upon the two heads of Colchester and Surry, it will not be necessary to advance above £3,000; as to the Liverpool expenses, Lord North will endeavour to avoid paying

any part of that demand, though Mr. Gascoign has certainly been a considerable sufferer in that contest.

His Majesty will perceive that when he shall have paid the £13,000 mentioned at the bottom of that account, there will still be due to Messrs Drummond about [£]22,000, which may be rub'd off, by Cheques, by the £1,000 a month, out of the Privy Purse. Mr. Robinson hopes that this account will be fully and compleatly made out for His Majesty on Sunday next, and the Quarterly accounts very soon after. It is not imagined that there will be any considerable balance against His Majesty on these accounts. Mr. Robinson doubts whether there will be any balance at all.

Tuesday night. Private.

No. 3664—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—Sir James Lowther has been with me to tell me a great deal which has passed between him and Lord Rockingham, the upshot of which is that either Lord Rockingham has offered him, or he has asked Lord Rockingham, I rather think the first, to be made a Viscount, and he has desir'd my interest with Your Majesty to the same effect. I reminded him that I sent to him, immediately after I was sent for by Your Majesty, and saw him afterwards, with a full Intention to include any wish of his among the Terms that were stipulated, that I acquainted Your Majesty that I had done so; that understanding him to desire nothing of the kind, and knowing that he had declin'd it formerly, the terms were closed, and several persons applying were positively told and assured that Your Majesty would make no Peers at present and that great Inconvenience must result to Your Majesty's Government, either if he was made, single, or if a number was to be made in the present moment. I thought it right to apprize Your Majesty of what has passed, least Lord Rockingham should press Your Majesty upon it.

I have the honour to be Your Majesty's most dutyfull subject,

Shelburne.

17 *April*, 1782. 24 *m. past* 12.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3665—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Printed. Fitzmaurice, *Life of Lord Shelburne*, ii. 108.

[17 *April*, 1782]

Sir—I have been considering since Sunday the business of the Civil List, and its probable course, and am desirous of submitting to Your Majesty's better judgment, whether there would be any Inconsistency in the line of conduct Your Majesty has determined on, in Your Majesty's ordering Lord Rockingham to lay before you the alterations he proposes in your Household, Wardrobe, and other Court departments, after he shall have consulted the Persons most experienced in these Services, with a state of the expense saved, and other advantages expected. I humbly conceive that this naturally comes under the head of *Interior* Regulations, and cannot interfere with the desire Your Majesty has expressed of being as little mixed as possible in the *Publick Regulations* proposed, which go to the Reduction of Ministerial Influence in the two Houses, and may go their course, independent of these Interior arrangements. Whoever may be to explain these Details to the House of Commons or the House of Lords may easily commit them to paper for Your Majesty's consideration, and Your Majesty may afterwards refer them, if you find it necessary, to Cabinet with particular instructions.

I dwelt in the House of Lords on the line of Public Expenditure in which the Commissioners of Accounts are now proceeding, as the real Object, which deserves attention in an oeconomical point of view, and insisted that the proposed Reduction of Ministerial Influence, arising from the Civil List, must make the struggle within and without Doors, who should contribute most to Your Majesty's Dignity Comfort and Splendor. Your Majesty may depend upon my adherence to these Principles. I am very sorry to find that the Line of the Message was so departed from in the Commons, as to make it impossible for any Person to take the line I proposed without hazarding a Publick Breach.

I have the honour to send Your Majesty the copy of my letter to Mr. Oswald, with which I despatched Mr. Seymour's Messenger on Sunday evening. I likewise take the liberty of

sending Your Majesty a letter to Lord Camden from Mr. Walpole though I cannot say I give it much credit [*both letters wanting*].

I shall be highly obliged to Your Majesty, if Your Majesty should think of Lord Cholmondeley for your Bedchamber. He is now at Bath, which has prevented my seeing him.

I have the honour to be, with the truest and most respectfull attachment, Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject and most faithfull servant, SHELBURNE.

17 *Febry* [? *April*] 1782. 11 *o'clock.*

No. 3666—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

There cannot be any objection to my directing Lord Rockingham to have stated on paper the alterations he proposes in the Household, Wardrobe and other Court Departments, after he has consulted the Persons most experienced in these Services, with a state of the expense saved and other advantages expected, for these are Interior, not Public Regulations.

Nothing could be more proper than Lord Shelburne's language on Monday in the House of Lords, and in reading the account of it in the news paper yesterday, and that of the Gentlemen in the House of Commons on the same subject, I felt very strongly the great difference.

The letter to Mr. Oswald is very proper. I cannot say much in favour of that from Mr. Walpole, and one cannot help smiling how every Man feels different for his own case from that of others: He certainly would blame Ministry for meddling in the interior Management, of the Bank, but where it could be for his own personal advantage; he mentions it so slightly that I daresay it is some very unreasonable request: I cannot conceive why he now wishes a continuation of the War, who during the former Administration called out so much for Peace. I will very readily appoint Lord Cholmondeley to the Vacancy in my Bedchamber.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *April 17th*, 1782. *m.* 30 *pt.* M.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3667—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

17 *April*, 1782

Lord Shelburne forgot to lay the Inclosed [*wanting*] before Your Majesty, which Mr. Fox desired him to do, being obliged to go to the House of Commons. Lord Shelburne does not mean to trouble Your Majesty for an answer, but if the paper is returned, will presume that Mr Fox may give Monsr. Simolin a civil answer to it to-morrow.

17 *April*, 6 *o'clock* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3668—*Lord North to the King.*

[18*th April*, 1782]

Lord North has the honour of sending to His Majesty the State of the Election Account, three Quarterly Accounts, together with the lists of Pensions and payments by Sir Grey Cooper and Mr. Robinson, upon which He takes the liberty to make some observations.

The Election Account contains not only the expenses of the General Election, but of the preceding and subsequent years.

Although the whole expense is £103,765: 15: 9 yet as the contributions from several individuals amounted to £31,010: 17: 0, the expense that falls upon His Majesty is only £72,754: 18: 9, a sum larger, but not very considerably larger than has been paid on other occasions of a similar nature.

The causes were, the strength of the Opposition to Government, which comprehending many powerful and rich families, and being very eager and zealous in their cause, were enabled to stir up and maintain many, and those formidable, contests in several of the Counties and Boroughs of England and Scotland: add to this, that the difficulties of the Times obliged several of the friends of Government to apply for assistance from Administration, who could have helped themselves better if the

times had been more favourable for obtaining pecuniary assistance or credit from private persons.

The sums which were paid to the Government candidates were to enable them to defray the necessary, legal and concomitant expences which arose from the different canvasses, Polls and Trials before the Committees, and were not given as bribes. No part of these expences are, in that sense of the word, *corruption.*

Perhaps, it may be answered, that the sums paid to the Gentlemen who have the command of Boroughs, for their interest, are to be considered as *Bribes.* But those bargains are not usually called by that name, and the money disbursed in that manner does not exceed what has been disbursed on all former occasions.

Some causes of the expence should likewise be added.

Westminster Election cost above £8,000; the expense of both candidates fell on the Crown.

Bristol. There were *two* elections, both contested, which brought on an expence of £6,000.

Tamworth. Lord's Townshend's distresses obliged him to sell his seat there for £4,000. Mr. Courtney, the member, returned this favour to Government by supporting them always with great abilities and zeal.

Surry. £4,000 was paid to Lord Onslow to enable him to maintain the Contest for that County.

Gloucestershire. Upon Mr. Chester's Death, there was a debt remaining in the County in consequence of the great contest, which was very embarrassing to the friends of Government at the last vacancy. £2,000 was paid in part of that Debt; the expense of the Government party there at the two Elections had been immense.

Coventry. In the course of a year and a half, there were three contested Elections, and two Trials before Committees. At the end of all these expenses Lord Sheffield and Mr. Yeo applied for £2,000.

Hampshire. £2,000 was issued to support the D. of Chandos and Sir Richd. Worsley in 1779.

The expences of Windsor, and in Scotland, were new but appeared unavoidable. They amount to about £5,000 in all.

Lord North did not apply for Secret Service Warrants to defray these expenses, as he knew that the remainder would, by degrees, be defrayed by the £1,000 a month out of the Privy Purse, and as these expences would be very small during the rest of the Parliament, [*the remainder of the letter is wanting*].

Enclosures to No. 3668.

I

Account of Pensions as they stood in the Pension Book at Michaelmas 1770, delivered over to Mr. Bradshaw by Sir Grey Cooper, and which have since ceased by death or otherwise.

	Per Annum		Per Annum
Mr. Keith	£1,000	Brought forward	£6,450
Mr. Fanshawe	800	Mr. Manley	120
Capt. Hales	500	Mr. Kynaston	100
Dr. Campbell	400	Mr. Lane,	100
Mr. David Hume	400	Mr. Fleming,	100
Lord Chetwynde	300	Mr. McPherson	100
Dr. Francis	300	Mr. Fielding	100
Mrs. Ayscough	300	Mr. Leslie	100
Sir James Calder	300	Sir Joseph Ayloffe	100
Sir John Fielding	400	Sir Horace Pettus	100
Mrs. Goldsworthy	250	Monsr. Rousseau	100
Lord Lindores	200	Capt. Fall,	100
Mr. Kelynge	200	Captn. Dunant,	60
Mr. Webb	200	Carnzu	60
Dr. Hardinge	200	Mrs Hudson,	60
Mr. Lloyd	200	Smith	50
Major Vaughan	200	Smart	50
Lord Borthwick	150	Harwich Expenses	100
Mr. Rowley	150	Lord Macleod	370
Carried forward	£6,450		£8,320

II

Account of Pensions added since Michaelmas, 1770.

	Per Annum
Mr. Bindley	£1,000
Mrs. Bradshaw and her Children	800
Mr. Smith	500
Mr. Parsons	400
Col. Younge	300
~~Dr. Marriott~~	~~200~~
Mr. Dunkerley	200
Mr. Bently	200
Mr. Wright, Mr. Addington, Mr. Gilbert (Westminster Police)	450
	300
	150
Mr. Mainwaring, for Middsx. Sessions & Clerk	250
ditto as Chairman of Westm. Sessns.	100
Mr. Mein	200
Mr. Bliss	150
Mr. Fleming	150
Miss Alts	200
Miss Keiths	300
Captn. Dodd	150
Mr. Ramus	100
Mr. Broughton	100
Mr. John Grey	160
Capt. Carroll	150
Mr. Bond	100
Mrs. Kelly	100
Mr. Kilsha	100
Carried forward	£6,610

	Per Annum
Brought forward	£6,610
Mr. Zeno	100
Mrs. Otway	100
Mrs. Speed	100
Mr. Lovel Stanhope, standing now in the name of Wm. Cory	100
Mr. Cawthorne	100
Mr. G. Barkley	100
Mr. Hamond	150
Mr. Mason	100
Mr. Hay	50
Mr. Gordon	50
Mr. Davis	40
Mr. Southwell	50
Mrs. Kelynge	50
Mrs. Weaver	35
Mrs. Lloyd and her daughters	150
Mrs. Weeks	40
Mr. Wm. Robinson	40
Mr. Adey	30
Justice Miller's Son	25
Mrs. Hay	25
Mrs. Lucy Robinson	30
Mr. Barretti	80
	£8,355
Deduct Sir James Marriott	200
Total	£8,155

III

Account of Pensions added by Lord North, and which have ceased, by death or otherwise.

	Per Annum
Dr. Lloyd..additional	£300
Mrs. Earle	300
Mr. McPherson	300
Mr. Hardinge	100
Major Vaughan..additional	200
Captn. Fall	100
Sir Thomas Robinson	200
Carried forward	£1,500

	Per Annum
Brought forward	£1,500
Mrs. Miller	50
Mr. Birmingham,	40
Mr. Crespigny	200
Mrs. Barber	50
	£1,840
Sir James Marriott	200
	£2,040

IV

[In the handwriting of Lord North.]

Observations on Mr. Robinson's list of Pensions.

His Majesty will perceive how very small a sum has been annually given in pensions to Members of Parliament. *Mr. Selwyn's* £1500 a year has been given from time to time as an additional salary to his place, in consequence of assistance at the Borough of Luggershall; his memorial accompanies the List [*wanting*].

Sir James Cockburn is in the extremest distress. He has received the Pension in the name of Lady Cockburn. His Majesty will consider whether it will [be] right to suppress this Pension entirely, or to leave Lady Cockburn in this, or insert her in some other list, on account of her distress, and the former connexions of her father with His Majesty and the Royal Family.

Mr. Bowlby. His Pension of £200 per annum was given to replace his loss by quitting the Board of Excise. Lord North believes that Mr. Bowlby who will be very grateful for the continuance in Lady Mary's name, does not wish to be continued in the list in his own name.

The accounts in the Box go down to Michmas 1779. The Rest are copying and will soon be with His Majesty.

V

[In the handwriting of Lord North.]

About 18 *April*, 1782

The only observations necessary to be made on Sir Grey Cooper's list are

That Mr. Bindley has been much employed every year about the Taxes, and his allowance has been annually increased. He receives his allowance till provided for.

That Mr. Cory is a trustee for Mr. Lionel Stanhope who has this £100 a year given him when he quitted the Law Clerk, which was abolished.

VI

Minutes of Bristol Expenses incurred for the Support of the Government, given in when they applied for assistance.

The Election in 1772 cost them	9,200	The Gentn. rec'd towards it from Government	2,000
Advanced for wounded Soldiers in America	2,600	Raised by their subscriptions.	
Bounty given to Recruits	6,250	All raised by subscriptions.	
Election in 1780 cost	8,100	All raised and paid by subscriptions, but on 29th July 1780 there was given to Mr. McCombe on this accot	1,000
Election in 1781—on the death of Sir H. Lippincot	11,000	which went in his expences before his Death, and was not included in the charge of £8,000	
	£37,150	and	
		Towards the Election in 1781 there was paid as follows to aid them in consn. of the repeated contests & great expenses they had been at	5,000
		1781 24 Jan. 2,000	
		10 Feby 1,000	
		19 May 1,000	
		29 Jun 1,000	
		Total since 1774 . .	£8,000

VII

[Not in Lord North's handwriting.]

[The Mr. Bate mentioned below is the individual of whom Horace Walpole writes, " The Duke of Richmond obtained the pardon of the infamous parson Bate, who had been imprisoned for writing a foul libel on his Grace."]

Ballance on the final Account as stated in the Book by Sir Grey Cooper is . . .	6,037	6	7½
But it appears that Sir Grey Cooper took Credit for Lord North in the Quarter ending 10th October 1779 for £10,000 as paid to Mr. Rigby, which ought not to have been done, since the Debt to Mr. Rigby constituted a part of the Balance due to Lord North on the 5th January 1779.	10,000	0	0

This Article being struck out of the Account will change the Ballance and make Lord North debtor to His Majesty the sum of . . . 3,962 13 4½

Lord North begs leave to observe to His Majesty that there was an Article in the Account ending the 5th July 1781, which Lord North ordered to be struck out and stated at the End of the Account, that it might be considered separately, by His Majesty, and either allowed or disallowed, as His Majesty should think proper, amounting to 3,250 0 0

Some years ago Mr. Garrick agreed with Mr. Bate that for a Pension and hopes of preferment, he should keep a Newspaper open for all writings in favour of Government, in which he and his Friends should write occasionally. To do Mr. Bate justice, he was a very constant, diligent, zealous and able, though perhaps too warm a writer on the part of Government. His Majesty will perceive that Mr. Bate continued to receive for some time an annual Pension of £200; that Pension ceased some time ago, and in extinction of all his Claims on the head of Pensions or Preferment, he was paid in the year 1781 the sum of 3,250 0 0 which was employed to assist him towards the purchase of the next presentation of a Living in Essex. Lord North has the honour of sending to His Majesty several letters relative to this transaction, which serve as Vouchers for the payment [*wanting*]. If His Majesty should think proper to allow of this Article, Lord North will then be debtor to His Majesty in the sum of . . 712 13 4½

His Majesty will perceive that Lord North has in consequence of His Majesty's most gracious orders taken at different times for the payment of his Debts the sum of . . . 20,000 0 0

But in that sum Lord North presumes to mention to His Majesty that two debts are included of a public nature, which he mentioned to His Majesty at Windsor in 1777, when he had

the honour to receive His Majesty's most gracious orders, viz :—For the Loss accrued in selling out the sum of £30,000 Stock to be applied to the Public Service in the year 1769 . .	1,166	5	11
Lord North never bought in again but the sum arising from this sale was constantly applied every year for the public service. For loss upon Sundry Lottery Tickets purchased at high prices to keep up the credit of the Lottery in 1770 .	2,817	3	0

VIII

Copy. *Enclosure.*

I promise to pay to Messrs Henry and Robert Drummond or order the sum of Thirty Thousand Pounds with interest at the rate of five pounds per centum per annum, as witness my hand this seventh day of December 1780. NORTH.

Memorandum. The above-mentioned sum of money being for His Majesty's use, this note was shown to His Majesty, given by his order and approved of. NORTH.

Decr. 7. 1780.

1780.	Dec. 7th.	Lord North's Note,	30,000	. .
1782.	May. 8th.	Received from Lord Brudenell, for which His Lordship had a receipt in part	7,000	. .
		Remains due	£23,000	. .

No. 3669—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 421.

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *April* 18*th*, 1782
m pt [*sic*]

The list of Pensions paid by Sir Grey Cooper requires no further explanation, and I shall therefore draw out a list of it for the present Head of the Treasury.

But I must express my astonishment at the Quarterly Account Books of the Secret Service being only made up to the 5th of April 1780, consequently that two years are as yet not stated. I cannot help saying it is a most shameful piece of neglect I ever knew. No business can ever be admitted as an excuse for not doing that; if every sum received had instantly been set down, as well as every article paid, this could not have happened. The Duke of Grafton never let a month elapse after the quarter without getting the Book finished and delivering it.

I shall make out also the List paid by Mr. Robinson to Peers, and shall give it to the first Lord of the Treasury, but I cannot answer whether under the idea of influence, there will not be a refusal to continue them; those to Members of the House of Commons cannot be given; they may apply if they please to Lord Rockingham, but by what he said to Me, I have not the smallest doubt that he will refuse to bring their Applications, as well as those of any new Solicitors, in that House. This is a natural consequence of the total change which I have been driven to; I foretold the measures that would be expected, but Lord North as well as the rest who advised my treating with Opposition would not credit my assertions.

Sir James Cockburn's Pension I will set down in the name of his wife, and Mr. Bowlby's in the name of Lady Mary. As to Mr Selwyn, I do not see a possibility of its continuing; He must view it like the loss of a place, and must look to better days. His Memorandum will be kept by Me.

I must add that Lord North, knowing for some weeks that the Ministry would be changed, it is strange He did not make up his Accounts, and bring the payments up to the time, for his successor will certainly not think himself obliged to pay up the Arrears; I see some have 3 quarters, some a year and Lord Northampton 10 quarters due.

As to the immense expense of the General Election it has quite surprised me, the sum is at least double of what was expended any other General Election since I came to the Throne, and by the fate of the last month proves most unhappy; certainly the £13,000 due to Messrs Drummond I shall, by degrees pay off; but I cannot bind myself any further. I think it is most likely that on the reduction of the expences of the Civil List, I shall be obliged to see my Privy Purse diminished the

£12,000 per annum ; if that should happen I have no means of satisfying the remainder now unexpectedly put to my account of £19,754. 18. 2. Had Lord North thought it necessary he ought during the Arrangement to have had Secret Service money to have defrayed that sum ; now that is impossible ; I cannot conclude without saying that I am sorry to see there has been such a strange waste of Money ; the letter I wrote the day Lord North resigned must have shown him that I should think myself bound to satisfy no further sum than the £13,000 to Mssrs. Drummond. G. R.

Two copies in the King's hand, draft and fair copy.

No. 3670—*Mr. Fox to the King.*

April 19, 1782

The House of Commons went to-day into the Committee upon the Bill for preventing Revenue Officers from voting at Elections. Sir Francis Bassett proposed to exempt all the present officers from the Disability incurred by the Bill, and divided the Committee upon his Amendment. There appeared for this amendment fourteen ; against it, eighty-two. The Speakers on each side were very few and very short, and the House was adjourned before six o'clock. Mr. Fox has agreeably to His Majesty's orders, written a postscript to his Dispatch to Sir James Harris, informing him of the substance of the Intelligence received this day from Holland.

St. James's, 10 *o'clock* p.m. *April* 19, 1782.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3671—*Lord Ashburnham to the King.*

I beseech Your Majesty's pardon for entreating you in this manner, to accept of my Resignation of the Office of Groom of the Stole ; as I am sure that I should not be able to possess myself sufficiently to express to Your Majesty in a proper manner, the

severe disappointment and mortification that I suffer, to find that Your Majesty has at last disposed of the Four Garters that were vacant, without deigning to bestow one on me. May I presume to set forth to Your Majesty the foundation on which I have so long built the most sanguine and flattering expectations. When Lord North came to my House in November 1775 to offer me the Office of Groom of the Stole, he accompanied it with saying that I should consider that this Office led to the Garter. I could not but suppose but the offer and the suggestion was made with Your Majesty's approbation. Upon this supposition I presumed immediately after my Appointment to lay at Your Majesty's feet my ardent wishes for the Honor of the Garter. Your Majesty was then pleased to receive my request graciously. Upon the death of the late Duke of Rutland in 1779, I presumed to repeat to Your Majesty my wish; the answer that Your Majesty was then pleased to make me was too Gracious and Favourable not to make the deepest impression on my memory. It was this: I shall never think of disposing of the Garter without bestowing one upon you. After this Flattering answer, I thought it would be highly improper to importune Your Majesty any more upon the subject, and therefore did not renew my Request upon the deaths of the Earl of Temple and Earl of Rochford. Deign, Sir, to consider how severe my disappointment must now be, to find (after having had so much Reason to entertain the best founded expectations for almost three years) that the Four vacant Garters have at last been disposed of, without Your Majesty having thought proper to bestow One upon me. I cannot give to Your Majesty a stronger Proof of the sensibility with which I feel this mortification than being drove by it to take the Step which I am now about to do, as no one can entertain sentiments of greater consideration for the high office it was your Majesty's goodness to call me to, than I do. But I should think myself void of those sentiments which whoever aspires to the honour of the Garter ought to possess, if I felt less sensibility upon the Loss of it.

I shall wait with the most dutyful respect to receive Your Majesty's Commands, when you will be pleased to have me deliver the Gold Key into Your Majesty's hands.

Permit me, Sir, with the utmost humility, to offer to Your Majesty my most unfeigned wishes for your health and prosperity,

and to subscribe myself, Your Majesty's most loyal and dutyful subject, ASHBURNHAM.

April ye 19th, 1782.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3672—*The King to Lord Ashburnham.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *April 19th*, 1782

MY LORD—I cannot say I have received Your letter with less regret than surprise ; I certainly meant to give You the Garter, and you would have had one of those otherwise disposed of this day had not the total change of Administration among other unpleasant things, obliged me to postpone my intentions in your favour. When I notified to You in my Closet the having prevented Your being removed from your employment about my Person, I added that You would receive future marks of my regard but that at the present hour they could not be accomplished, by which I meant that you should collect that I did not forget what had passed on the Garter, but could not fulfil it at the present extraordinary crisis. When you have coolly read this and weighed my situation, I trust You will feel that necessity, not inclination, has prevented my doing what would have been and ever will be pleasing to me, and that then You will forego the idea of resigning the Gold Key ; but : [if] contrary to my expectation you should still persist in that idea, I trust you will not mention that intention to anyone till authorized by Me.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3673—*Lord Ashburnham to the King.*

SIR—I beg Your Majesty would be graciously pleased to be assured that I feel as I ought to do, your great Condescension in writing to me the letter which I have just had the great honour to receive ; I entreat Your Majesty to be persuaded that one of the most earnest wishes of my heart has been, that such poor services as I was able to render to you might be acceptable to Your Majesty, and I always considered as the most pleasing

circumstance belonging to the Garter, that it would be a mark to the world, and a token to me, that my humble endeavours had succeeded : the loss of it carries an appearance that affects my mind extremely, and I am now arrived at a time of life that does not permit me to think any more of distant honours. I feel very sensibly, as I ought to do, what Your Majesty is so gracious as to intimate to me about forgoing my idea of Resigning the Gold Key, and it is with the utmost concern that I find myself unable to get the better of those feelings which occasioned me to presume to trouble Your Majesty with my letter of this morning. I am sorry that it is no longer in my Power to obey the injunctions that Your Majesty has laid upon me not to mention the step which I have taken : I have already trusted two People with it, but I have that opinion of them to think that they will be discreet enough not to talk of it.

I am, Sir, with the utmost submission and humility, Your Majesty's most loyal and faithful subject ASHBURNHAM.

April ye 19*th*, 1782.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3674—*Lord North to the King.*

Printed. Donne II. 243.

Lord North, with a heart full of the deepest concern, at having incurred the displeasure of His Majesty, humbly throws himself at His Majesty's feet, and implores his attention to a few words that he presumes to offer in explanation of the delay of the accounts.

Sir Grey Cooper's List was always ready after every quarter, so that no part of the delay is imputable to him.

Mr. Robinson, whose List is of a nicer nature, never omitted entering every sum he paid the moment he paid it, so that every article of his account is kept in perfect order, and regularly checked by his Banker's Book, but they were not extracted, compared and copied fair for His Majesty at the proper periods. as Lord North wished they should be.

Lord North pressed Mr. Robinson a hundred times over to make up his accounts at the proper periods, and among the many

sources of uneasiness of Lord North's mind for some years past, this has been one of the greatest. It has embittered his life, but he is at the same time in justice to Mr. Robinson, obliged to say that he was every moment interrupted by the current business, and such a constant hurry and press of business as he has had to undergo for these last three years was, as Lord North believes, never known. It has visibly impaired his health, and perhaps, in some degree, diminished his former quickness. All his accounts are regular and clear, and exact to the minutest circumstance; the day of the issue of every sum correctly marked. They are now all made up and sent to Sir Grey Cooper, who is hard at work preparing them for His Majesty, and hopes to have finished the last by Tuesday or Wednesday next. Mr. Robinson will, if it is His Majesty's pleasure, explain to His Majesty every article of the account, and state the reasons which have caused the delay.

As to the Quarters of Pensions in arrears, Mr. Robinson informs Lord North that he never paid any pension but upon the application of the Pensioner, several of whom have not for some time applied for the money due. Lord North remembers that when he came to the Treasury, several of the Pensions were due for many quarters preceding.

As to the Election account, Lord North never received it till he sent it to His Majesty on the 27th March last. He had, for some months past, pressed Mr. Robinson to let him see it, but Mr. Robinson was not able to give him a compleat state of it before. If Lord North had thought that the expense attending Elections and re-elections in the years 1779, 1780 and 1781 would have amounted to £72,000 he would certainly not have advised His Majesty to embark in any such expense. He begs however a few moments of His Majesty's attention to state some circumstances which may, in a degree, account for the largeness of the sum in the Election account.

That account contains, besides the expenses attending the General Election, the expense of the Hampshire contest in 1779, and of the Elections of *Bristol*, *Coventry*, *Gloucestershire*, together with about £2,000 for sundry *smaller re-elections*.

The £2,000 sent to the Duke of Chandos and Sir R. Worsley in *Hampshire* bore, as Lord North fears, a very small part of their expense.

Mr. Chester in the great contest for *Gloucestershire* had, as it is

said, spent from £20 to £30,000, but nevertheless left at his death from £3 to £4,000 unpaid. This debt was a great prejudice to the friends of Government in the Contest which followed upon Mr. Chester's death. To assist in removing it, £2,000 was paid.

The sitting Members for *Coventry* had stood three contested elections, two trials before the Committee, and a long examination at the Bar of the House, in the course of a year and a half, before they made any application. They then received £2,000.

The General Election at *Bristol* cost but £1,000 to Government, but Sir Henry Lippincoat's death bringing on a fresh contest on the back of the former, the Merchants of Bristol, who had contributed large sums to the first contest, as well as to many loyal subscriptions, thought they might, without impropriety, apply for assistance. They received, at different times, £5,000. Lord North encloses an abstract of their expenses and of the assistance they received.

Expenses in the account *not incurred at the General Election*

Hampshire,	2,000	
Gloucestershire,	2,000	
Coventry,	2,000	13,000
Bristol	5,000	
Sundry re-elections	2,000	

Lord North was very unwillingly drawn into the contests for Westminster, Surry and the City of London, but the necessity of strengthening the Government at that time, and of weakening the Opposition, and the importance of a victory in those places, with the fair prospect of success, prevailed upon him to advise the beginning, which drew on the subsequent expense.

The expense of Westminster amounted to more than		8,000
ditto Surry	to	4,000
ditto The City to more than		4,000
ditto of all three to more than		16,000

These three contests were unhappily, not successfull, and therefore, the expense a greater grievance, but Lord North must, in justice to the Members who were assisted to come into Parliament say, that they all behaved with a very steady attachment to the end.

Lord North will just add that he was likewise disappointed of some contribution money, which he had every reason to expect.

Lord North does, by no means, intend by this State to propose to His Majesty to add more than £13,000 to the £40,000 already issued (which undoubtedly is a very large sum) but only to lay fairly and fully before His Majesty the principal causes of the amount of that account of which His Majesty complains.

If Lord North remembers correctly, the last General Election cost near £50,000 to the Crown, beyond which expense there was a pension of £1,000 a year to Lord Montague and of £500 a year to Mr. Selwyn, for their interest at Midhurst and Luggershall.

The Elections of 1779, 1780 and 1781 will cost £53,000 but there has been no additional pension promised. Nay, Lord Montagu's Pension of £1,000 a year was struck off, because two friends of Government, Sir Sampson Gideon and Mr. Drummond, purchased with their own money, at Lord North's recommendation, the seats at Midhurst. So that, all things considered, this Election will not, in the end, have been so burthensome to His Majesty as the last.

Lord North begs leave to submit to His Majesty That, at the time of the Election, it was thought of the first importance to secure a number of friends in the House of Commons : that the Opposition was numerous, eager, and powerful ; That the times were distressing upon Gentlemen, very few of whom were able to assist themselves so well as in former times ; That, in fact, till after the calamity of York Town, the Parliament appeared very friendly to the last Administration, and That, as Lord North mentioned above, he was not able to stop the expense in some cases, nor to know its extent till very lately.

Lord North states all these circumstances *only* in the hope of reinstating himself in some degree, in His Majesty's good opinion. He has no other wish or desire ; He has endeavoured, through the course of his life, to promote His Majesty's service to the best of his judgment. No one knew better his unfitness for the office he held than he did himself, and His Majesty will do him the justice to own that from the very first, He frequently and repeatedly represented his incapacity and solicited for his dismission. The uneasiness of his mind, arising from the consciousness of his being inadequate to his situation has greatly impaired his faculties, and is now, he fears, undermining his constitution.

He hopes that His Majesty will not render the remainder of his days unhappy, by withdrawing that good opinion, which he has long and often, by the sacrifice of his inclinations and private comfort, endeavoured to deserve.

Saturday morning. April 10, 1782.

Endorsed by the King ; the handwriting shaky.

There is a copy of this letter among the papers, also a copy of the promissory note for £30,000 given by Lord North to Mr. Henry Drummond on 7 December 1780, and of a memorandum by Lord North,—" The above-mentioned sum being for His Majesty's use, this note was shewn to His Majesty, given by his order and approved." (*Signed*) North, Dec. 7, 1780.

There is also a scrap, apparently in the handwriting of Mr. Robinson, marked, " Most Private. Memm. Lord North on delivering his note as per copy written to Mr. Drummond recd from Mr Drummond Bank notes for £30,000—and of these notes Lord N. gave almost immy to Ld Edgecumbe notes for £18,000."

No. 3675—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 427.

Lord North cannot be surprised that a mind truely tore to pieces should make me less attentive to my expressions. I certainly did and do still think the Accounts ought to have been regularly given in ; but I did not mean by that to express any intention of withdrawing my good opinion of Him. He must recollect I foretold the consequences if a total change was made, and every hour only convinces me more of the truth of my assertions.

April 21*st*, 1782

No. 3676—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—We had a Cabinet here after Dinner yesterday, which lasted till late at night, upon the West India Fleet, and principally upon Sir George Rodney upon whose subject I have forbore troubling Your Majesty, conceiving it to lye with the Admiralty, but as Lord Kepple wishes very much the proposition of his Recall should come to Your Majesty thro the Secretary of State, rather than thro' him, I am to take Your Majesty's pleasure upon

it this day, at the unanimous desire of the Cabinet. We talked much upon the Home Defence by Land and Sea, Fortifications, Recruiting, Augmenting the Militia, but came to no Resolution upon any. Nothing passed about the Civil List, but the immediate reason of my troubling Your Majesty is to beseech you to be as explicit as possible to Lord Rockingham in signyfying your Orders about the Interior Regulations, to prevent Your Majesty's name being used against yourself, either with the Cabinet or the Individuals who compose it.

I have the honour to send Your Majesty a private letter from Lord Carlisle. I take the liberty of adding a letter which I have received from Mr. Fitzpatrick.

I have the honour to be, with the most sincere attachment Your Majesty's most dutyfull subject and faithful servant

SHELBURNE.

Sunday ¾ past 8.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3677—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *April 21st*, 1782
m. 38 *past* 9 A.M.

It is very evident that every department when doubtful whether the Proposition may not be disagreeable, choose to throw the Office of communicating it to Lord Shelburne, though they do not otherwise show him the attention he deserves from them. As it is the Unanimous recommendation of the Cabinet that Sir Geo. Rodney should be recalled, I shall not object to it; but I hope Lord Keppel has a proper Admiral in his eye to succeed Him.

I cannot deny that my mind is a good deal disturbed with Lord Rockingham's not having yet laid before me on paper the Offices proposed to be reformed, nor the other interior arrangements of my Civil List; I shall certainly this day desire him again to have it prepared, but I am certain I shall be forced to call on the assistance of the Cabinet in this Affair, for though I have not found others not understand Me, I am seldom so happy as to make him do it.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3678—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—I have made the most particular enquiry I could relative to the appointment of a Lieut. Governor to Quebec, and would submit to Your Majesty Governor Hamilton, late Governor of Detroit, as the fittest person to succeed Mr. Cromake, who appears totally unfit to be continued, and Major Hay, who suffered very much with Governor Hamilton, to succeed to the Government of Detroit.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject and Faithful Servant, Shelburne.

Monday 22nd April. One o'clock P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3679—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

From the character given to Governor Hamilton by many Officers, I have no doubt Lord Shelburne's recommendation of him to succeed Lieut Gov. Cromake at Quebec's very judicious ; I approve therefore the proper Commission being prepared for my signature appointing Mr. Hamilton Lieut. Gov. of the Province of Quebec, and Major Hay Governor of Detroit.

Windsor. *April 22nd,* 1782
m. 33 *past* 5 P.M.

Draft, written on a page of Lord Shelburne's letter of same date.

No. 3680—*Lord North to the King.*

Sir Grey Cooper having finished the last of His Majesty's accounts, Lord North has carefully revised it, but thinks that possibly Sir Grey may have made an error in transcribing the accounts of the Quarter ending October 10th 1779. Lord North, therefore, begs the permission of troubling His Majesty to return him for a moment the accounts of the two quarters ending June 5th and Oct. 10. 1779. He will not fail to send them back to His Majesty with the first account in the course of to-morrow.

Thursday, April 25th, 1782.

Endorsed by the King in pencil.

Enclosure.

[In the King's handwriting.]

	Received	Issued	Exceeding	less than rec'd 5th January
Lady Day 1779	17625 15 0	17656 6 0	30 11 0	
Midsummer 1779	17710 15 0	22571 11 6	26048 12 4½	Total 9003 3 2
Michaelmas 1779	36000 0 0	26997 3 2	26079 3 4½	
			4880 16 6	
Christmas 1779	12000 0 0	18355 17 0	30959 19 10½	
Lady Day 1780	31000 0 0	26569 8 6	9003 13 2	subtract
Midsummer 1780	22603 0 0		21956 16 8½	
		14709 13 6	6355 17 0	add
Michaelmas 1780	9000 0 0	17802 4 2	28312 13 8½	
Christmas 1780	14000 0 0	11758 16 10	4431 8 6	subtract
			23881 5 2½	
Lady Day 1781	15000 0 0	28972 6 6	2893 6 6	subtract
			20987 18 8½	
Midsummer 1781	24700 0 0	25742 7 5	8802 4 2	add
Michaelmas 1781	13000 0 0	10376 7 6	29790 2 10½	
			3143 3 2	subtract
Christmas 1781	15300 0 0	6908 11 6		
			26646 19 8½	
Lady Day 1782	45956 4 0		8972 6 6	add
			35619 6 2½	
			1042 7 5	subtract
			36661 13 7½	
but Sir G. Cooper by mistake Michs 1779 charged £10000 as owing to Ld North, the deducting of which makes Ld North instead of Cr. of Crown a Debtor of		6037 6 7½	2623 12 6	subtract
			34038 1 1½	
		3962 13 4½		
but Ld North had paid for Mr. Bate		3250 0 0	8391 8 6	subtract
			25646 12 7½	
		712 13 4½		
			19609 6 0	subtract
3983 8 11.			6037 6 7½	

No. 3681—*Admiral Keppel to the King.*

Admiral Keppel has the honour to transmit to Your Majesty two dispatches by Express from Plymouth, the one brought to Cawsand Bay by the Monsieur Frigate, Captain Finch; the other from Captain Macbride of the Alarm, a more descriptive and satisfactory Account, but yet leaves the matter of hope of Vice-Admiral Barrington's compleat success in a degree of suspence.

ADMIRALTY OFFICE, *April 23rd*, 1782
forty-five minutes past five o'clock P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3682—*The King to Admiral Keppel.*

WINDSOR, *April 23rd*, 1782
m. 40 *past* 8 P.M.

The account of the pursuit of the French Convoy intended for the East Indies, and the taking of four of the Transports, does Capt. Macbride great credit, but his activity has been so thoroughly tried this War, that it is ever expected he will deserve approbation whenever the opportunity offers: I trust we shall have further good accounts from Vice Admiral Barrington.

Draft, written on a page of Admiral Keppel's letter of same date.

No. 3683—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Lord Shelburne will take care to obey Your Majesty's Commands to the best of his power, and to report to Your Majesty to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

BERKLEY SQUARE. 24*th April* 1782. 40 *m. past* 7 P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3684—*Mr. Fox to the King.*

Mr. Fox has the honour of sending Your Majesty the Resolutions that were passed Monday and yesterday upon East India Affairs. There was a division upon one of them respecting Mr. Sullivan, when the numbers were, for the Resolution fifty-three, against it, twenty-two. The principal supporter of yesterday's Resolutions was Mr. Burke, as Lord Advocate was of those of Monday.

St. James's, *m.* 35 *past* 11 A.M. *April 25th*, 1782

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3685—*Admiral Keppel to the King.*

Admiral Keppel has the honour to transmit to Your Majesty dispatches received this day by the packet from Admiral Sir George Rodney, Giving an account of his junction with Rear Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, and of his being also joined by the Duke, the Warrior and Valiant.

Admiral Keppel has also the honour to Acquaint Your Majesty that the Goliath is arrived alone at Spithead damaged in her Mast and Yards, from Accident carrying of sail, during the evening of 25th last in chace.

Admiralty Office, *April ye 25th*, 1782.
15 *minutes past five o'clock* P.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3686—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

[24 *April*, 1782]

Sir—On Monday morning I saw the Duke of Marlborough and sounded him under the strictest Injunction of Secresy, about Grome of the Stole ; he desired time to consider, and I have the honour to inclose to Your Majesty his answer I then saw Lord

Gower, who thinks himself too old for that particular Station, but in regard to any other, disposed to do whatever might be most agreeable to Your Majesty. I then employed the Chancellor to sound Lord Weymouth, who did so last night, and referrs to my being to meet him at the Cabinet this day before Court, to explain Lord Weymouth's disposition. I have deferr'd speaking to Lord Rockingham till I could be certain in regard to one of these Lords, which I hope to be to-day.

At 8 o'clock the Duke of Portland's messenger arriv'd with dispatches, which Your Majesty will receive in another Box. I have no private letter by him—I flatter myself Mr. Fitzpatrick does me the Justice to believe no letter could reconcile me to such proceedings.

At ½ past 9 I saw Mr. Lawrence, who has been waiting at Sittingbourne for Mr. Oswald's return. I found him *changed*, touchy and conceited, and vulgarly so. However I made a point of keeping my temper, which every day's experience tells me can alone enable me to be of any use in Your Majesty's service, and Mr. Lawrence must be managed on account of his fundamental aversion to France, and not being devoted to any of his Colleagues. The upshot of his answer from Mr. Adams is, that he could not communicate his Power and Instructions, as long as he was a Prisoner, even to him ;—That the greatest part of Mr. Digge's paper was *false* ;—That an acknowledgment of Independence must be a Preliminary, and no proceeding whatever without France.

Mr. Oswald came to me at 11 : I have no time to state to Your Majesty the particulars, but send Your Majesty his Papers. He has others from Dr. Franklin to communicate to me under very strong injunctions of the utmost Secresy.

I hope Your Majesty will excuse my writing so hastily : as I am anxious Your Majesty should be apprized before your Levee of the outlines of these important matters When I have the honour to attend you, I will explain all more particularly. Mr. Oswald is now with me.

I have the honour to be always, Your Majesty's devoted subject and faithfull servent, SHELBURNE.

Wednesday. 9 *mins. past* 12 A.M.

Endorsed by the King. E. of Shelburne, April 24, 1782.

No. 3687—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—I have the honour to send Your Majesty the Minute of last night. The person I understand Mr. Fox means to propose to Your Majesty is Mr. Thomas Grenville.

I mentioned to Lord Rockingham Lord Ashburnham's intention of resigning, and Your Majesty's intention that Lord Weymouth should succeed him. If Your Majesty thinks it proper I will see Lord Weymouth upon it before Court.

Lord Rockingham appeared very well pleased to have to think of a Lord to succeed to Lord Orford's Bedchamber.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, Your Majesty's dutyfull subject and faithfull servant, Shelburne.

26*th April*, 1782. ½ *past* 10 A.M.

Endorsed by the King.

Enclosure.

Minute of Cabinet

[In Lord Shelburne's handwriting.]

Present:—Lord Chancellor, Lord President, Duke of Richmond, Marquis of Rockingham, Duke of Grafton, Lord John Cavendish, General Conway, Lord Ashburton, Lord Kepple, Mr. Fox, Lord Shelburne.

It is humbly submitted to His Majesty that Mr. Oswald shall return to Paris with authority to name Paris as the Place, and to settle with Dr. Franklin the most convenient time for setting on Foot a Negotiation for a General Peace,—and to represent to him that the principal points in contemplation are the allowance of Independence to America, upon Great Britain being restored to the situation she was placed in by the Treaty of 1763, and that Mr. Fox shall submit to the consideration of the King a proper person to make a similar communication to Monsr. de Vergennes.

That it be submitted to the King that Admiral Sir George Rodney should be recalled, and Lord Kepple be desired to submit to His Majesty a proper Officer to succeed to that Command.

No. 3688—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

26th April, 1782

Lord Shelburne has desired Col. Craig who is this moment arrived with the Inclosed and other dispatches which are now opening, to dress immediately to attend at Your Majesty's Levee, thinking it might be agreeable to Your Majesty, as he left the Prince perfectly well, whom he had the honour of seeing the night before [he] set out. He left everything at New York in a state of perfect tranquillity.

26 *April*, 11 *m. past* 12.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3689—*Admiral Keppel to the King.*

Admiral Keppel has the honour to transmit to Your Majesty a letter this moment received from Admiral Sir Thomas Pye, and Admiral Keppel has also the honour to acquaint Your Majesty that he has examined the Master of the Hawke Cutter, who gives reason to hope the Queen may bring the French ship mentioned to Action. He lost sight of them at about eleven o'clock on Monday last, the Lizard bearing north about fifteen leagues, the wind at W.N.W. in the morning, but when he left the Queen in chase, the wind was South, the two ships standing to the Westward, with a fresh of wind.

Admiralty Office. *April 26th*, 1782
30 *minutes past five o'clock*

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3690—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

I now send again the Papers on the reformation to be made in the Civil List for Lord Shelburne's Inspection, and for any remarks He has to make on them. I desire they may be returned in the course of the day, that Ld Rockingham may at latest have them to-morrow morning: the only thing that seems to occurr is that they should be accompanied with a letter stating that the

Message had been altered to render it conformable to the one already sent; for that I did not think myself bound to make any additional propositions.

There is a copy of the Message on Quarto Paper for Lord Shelburne's use.

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *April 27th*, 1782. *m.* 48 *past* 7 A.M.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

Enclosure No. 1.

Draft message to the House of Commons

[In the King's handwriting on a folio sheet.]

His Majesty has found with concern that notwithstanding the two several Payments of the Civil List Debt, and the subsequent increase of the Civil List Revenue, that a considerable debt is since incurred. His Majesty therefore desires the advice and aid of the House of Commons as to the proposed mode of discharging that Debt, and preventing the like in future, without laying any new burthens on His People, whom it is ever his wish as much as possible to relieve. For these purposes His Majesty lays before the House the plan of reform which he has judged proper to make in His Establishment, to be perfected by the Wisdom of Parliament for the Honour of the Crown and the Public Benefit.

Enclosure No. 2.

Draft Message to the House of Commons

[On a quarto sheet.]

His Majesty therefore desires the advice and aid of the House of Commons as to the proposed mode of discharging that debt, and preventing the like in future, without laying any new burthen on his People, whom it is his wish as much as possible to relieve. For these purposes His Majesty lays before the House the plan of reform, which he has judged proper to make in his Establishment, to be perfected by the wisdom of Parliament, leaving it to their prudence to apply the savings, that shall be thereby made to the objects before mentioned and to such other as the House may think most expedient for the honour of the Crown and the public benefit.

No. 3691—*Lord North to the King.*

Lord North has the honour of sending to His Majesty the final account, in which he has discovered, and corrected the error of which he made mention to His Majesty in a former Note.

Lord North thought it right to separate the article respecting Mr. Bate from the other; that His Majesty, being assisted by the Vouchers, which are sent herewith, might consider it distinctly and determine separately upon it. The amount of the Balance due from Lord North will depend upon that determination.

If His Majesty should wish for any further explanation of any Article in the accounts, Mr. Robinson who, during the continuance of these accounts, received and issued the greatest part of the money, and who has kept the acounts with the greatest exactness, will be always ready to obey His Majesty's Commands.

Lord North begs leave to repeat once more his most grateful acknowledgments of His Majesty's gracious permission to take £20,000 for the payment of his Debts, which he took from time to time as appeared least inconvenient to His Majesty's service.

It is impossible that Lord North, and every other person should not agree with His Majesty that the accounts ought to have been made up quarterly. Lord North has had the honour of explaining the cause of the delay, and begs leave to add only that His Majesty's kindness in his last Note has made a deep impression in his heart, and added to the many instances he has received of His Majesty's goodness must for ever bind him to His Majesty's service.

Saturday, April 27th, 1782

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3692—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

Sir—I received the honour of Your Majesty's Commands between eight and nine this morning, and would have returned them sooner, but I have been taken up with a Cabinet which lasted from eleven till three. This did not leave me as much time as I could have wish'd to consult Lord Ashburton or Lord

Chancellor. I thought it for Your Majesty's service to communicate Lord Rockingham's papers to the former with Your Majesty's Remarks. He doubts whether, if a precise Limit be put to the Pension List, as stated in Article 11, a Pension will not thence-forward become like an Office, a subject for application and solicitation, whenever a Vacancy happens, by which means it will always be kept full, and whenever an occasion arises on which Your Majesty may be inclined to reward merit or relieve distress, the object of Your Majesty's Benevolence will be [obliged] to wait a Vacancy. Lord Chancellor to whom Lord Ashburton mentioned this Article, not having an opportunity to speak to him myself before or after Council, thinks if Your Majesty is disposed to give way on this subject, Your Majesty might state yourself indifferent, as far as concerns yourself and Your Majesty's own interests, but doubtfull so far as it would be for the publick Interest, that the Pension List should be subjected to a precise Limit; the real objection to an unlimited Pension List, namely that it may be used as a means of corrupt Influence, being effectually guarded against by making it publick. As to the rest, the proposed alteration in the Message appears to me perfectly proper, and the observations upon the Paper accompanying it perfectly just. I hope and trust Your Majesty's Liberality will not be abused in carrying this Plan forward, and I shall certainly think it my duty to do everything in my power to prevent it.

Mr. Oswald has been detain'd this day on account of his private affairs, but will set out on his return to Paris to-morrow. I have the honour to inclose to Your Majesty the Draft of my letter to Dr. Franklin [*wanting*], upon which if I dare presume so far, I would humbly request Your Majesty's opinion, independent of taking Your Majesty's. [? commands.]

I talked for some hours last night to Mr. Oswald and see clearly that Your Majesty's interest would suffer very severely for want of Mr. Oswald for some time at least at Paris. I therefore think it my Duty to make a point of his going, tho' very opposite to my own inclinations in other respects, which would lead me to make myself as little responsible as possible for a measure which is repugnant to all my Passions and all my Principle, if Necessity did not compel it. I could trace no passion in Mr. Oswald of any kind, nor no Inclination, except

to lend himself with great simplicity to whatever others thought for Your Majesty's Service and the Publick good.

Your Majesty will find a Letter from Mr. Laurens and I have this moment received one from Lord Carlisle to notifye his arrival, and that he holds himself in readiness at Mr. Selwyn's house in Cleveland Court to receive Your Majesty's Commands.

I saw Lord Weymouth whose manner proved him worthy the regard I took the liberty to tell him Your Majesty had early expressed to me for him, and will be ready to attend Your Majesty whenever you order him.

I take it for granted General Conway will acquaint Your Majesty what passed to-day,—but as there was no Minute taken, and he may deferr it till he attends Your Majesty, I take the liberty of enclosing a copy of the short notes I took, thinking it might be agreeable to Your Majesty.

I have the honour to be with the highest respect Your Majesty's dutyfull subject and faithful servant, SHELBURNE.

27 *April*, 1782. 55 *m. past* 5 P.M.

Enclosure.

Propositions

1. To call on Ld. Lieutenants	to recruit the regiments under County Names.
2. To call on Towns	to consult them about Town Militias.
3. Subscription for recruits	agreed to.
4. Volunteers from Militia	consideration deferred.
5. Highlands of Scotland.	deferred.
6. Ireland	deferred.
7. County Names to Regiments.	agreed to.
8. General Pardon	agreed to.
9. Encouragement to Soldier's children.	consideration deferred.
10. Inhabitants of town to learn artillery exercise.	to be considered of, particularly as far as regards Sea Coast.
11. Immediate increase of Bounty,	agreed to.

No. 3693—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE. *April 27th*, 1782
m. 35 *pt.* 7 P.M.

The opinion that a precise limit should not be put to the Pension List seems to be judicious; I shall avail myself of the hint: I owne I suspect on the whole of the alteration of the Civil List there is still some secret that is not yet disclosed. I hope this is a groundless idea, but it constantly haunts me.

The letter to Dr. Franklin seems very proper and certainly there does not occurr to me the smallest doubt of its being perfectly safe for Lord Shelburne to send it without any alteration. I am glad Lord Shelburne's zeal for my service has so far exceeded his natural aversion to being mixed in the transactions of Peace at the present hour to make him keep Mr. Oswald at Paris, which cannot fail of being an useful check on that part of the Negotiation that is in other hands: would there be any impropriety in Lord Shelburne's having at least some general conversation with Mr. Grenville previous to his departure?

I am not unmindful of the attention in transmitting a copy of the short notes taken at the Cabinet this day.

I hope Lord Shelburne will see Lord Carlisle. I should wish to have his report tomorrow of what has past between them, who cannot regularly come to Court till Wednesday.

I have this instant heard that Lord Talbot dyed at half hour past four. I hope he will not lose any time in talking to Lord Rockingham, or the Duke of Marlborough, or Lord Carlisle. Lord Weymouth should attend on Wednesday.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3694—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

SIR—I wrote to the Duke of Marlborough last night to tell him that it was impossible for me to save Lord Charles Spencer, and that I would call upon His Grace before one o'clock this day. I hope Your Majesty will have the goodness to express to Lord Rockingham Your Majesty's concern at Lord Charles Spencer's being, by means of this Reform, left out of your Government,

and your great consideration of the Duke of Marlborough. It will then be for me to consider with Lord Rockingham whether what has passed in Ireland will be sufficient to excuse to Lord Gower, to whom I originally intimated Your Majesty's intention of making some opening about your Person for Lord Carlisle, making Lord Carlisle wait for some other vacancy;—the more Your Majesty is pleased to intimate to Lord Rockingham upon this arrangement the easier it will be for me to settle it with him.

I am to see Mr. Grenville this morning.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect, Your Majesty's Dutyfull subject and faithfull servant, SHELBURNE.

28*th April*, 1782. 37 *m. past* 9 A.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3695.

MINUTE OF CABINET

[In the handwriting of Admiral Lord Keppel.]

April ye 28*th*, 1782

Present:—Lord President, Lord Privy Seal, Duke of Richmond, Lord Rockingham, Lord Shelburne, Mr. Fox, Lord John Cavendish, Lord Ashburton, General Conway, Admiral Keppel.

It is humbly recommended to Your Majesty that Admiral Lord Howe be directed to proceed to sea with the utmost dispatch, with as many of Your Majesty's Ships as are now ready at Spithead, the Ships not so ready to be directed to follow Lord Howe to his rendezvous when they are so, the purpose of Lord Howe being sent to sea so directly is with a view of destroying or retarding the French force now preparing at Brest to put to sea; also to intercept or annoy the French force and Convoy supposed to be coming into the French ports in the Bay from Ferrol; and it is recommended to Your Majesty that Lord Howe should continue upon this service for the space of forty days, and then to repair to Torbay to refit and victual the Fleet, unless His Lordship shall see reason to come into port sooner, or to keep the sea a longer time than is here humbly recommended to Your Majesty.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3696—*The King to Lord Weymouth.*

My dear Lord Weymouth—On the intention Lord Ashburnham has notified to Me of resigning the Employment he holds about my Person, the feelings of my heart certainly dictated You as the properest Person again to have the Gold Key; I desire, therefore, you will be on Wednesday at St. James's to receive it from Me.

Queen's House. *April 28th*, 1782.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3697—*Lord Weymouth to the King.*

Arlington Street, *April 28th*, 1782

Sir—Your Majesty's most gracious letter has quite confounded me: I believe the most respectful return I can make is, to give Your Majesty no further trouble than to say that I shall obey Your Majesty's commands on Wednesday next.

I am, Sir, Your Majesty's most loyal and dutiful subject,

Weymouth.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3698—*The King to Lord Rockingham.*

Queen's House, *April 28th*, 1782
m. 50 *pt.* 10 A.M.

I now return to the Marquis of Rockingham the Papers he put on Wednesday into my hands concerning the reforms to be made in the Civil List and the Offices in consequence to be abolished; I shall expect to receive a state of the Interior arrangements to be made in each Department before they are finally made, that my opinion may also be known.

I have on the opposite side put the alterations in the Message to the House of Commons I think necessary, or they are conformable to the first I have already sent, and I do not think myself bound to make any further concessions.

I have also put my remarks on the opposite side to the scheme for the Reform, and to the paper mentioning the savings. I desire therefore without loss of time that Lord Rockingham will lay these Papers before the Cabinet, as I do not wish any delay should occasion this business not being as soon as convenient concluded.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

Enclosure No. 1.

[In the King's handwriting, copied fair, on paper folded half margin]

1.

That His Majesty has *determined to* abolished [*sic*] the office of the Third Secretary of State with all the Offices dependent thereon.

2.

That His Majesty has *resolved to* abolished [*sic*] the Seven Places which form the Board of Trade and Plantations, and to provide for the execution of the duties of the said Office by a Committee of his Privy Council, as heretofore has been used.

3.

has

That His Majesty *proposes to* abolished the Seven Offices which form The Board of Trade and Police in Scotland, with all the offices depending thereon.

4.

That His Majesty will abolish most of the Offices which compose the Board of Works, and will place all the charges of His Buildings and Gardens under Comptrollers who shall be persons professing the arts of Building and Gardening.

5.

will

That His Majesty *proposes to* abolish the Office called the Great Wardrobe and all its dependencies and to provide for the execu-

tion thereof in the manner which will be the least burthensome to the Civil List Establishment.

6.

That His Majesty will abolish the Jewel Office, together with all the offices dependent thereon.

7.

That His Majesty will abolish the Office of Treasurer of the Chamber, and will order all considerable payments for the Expenses of His Household to be hereafter made at the Exchequer.

8.

That His Majesty will abolish the Office of Cofferer and remove the payments made in that office to the Treasury.

9.

That His Majesty proposes to abolish the six offices called the Board of Green Cloth.

10.

That His Majesty will cause the Department of the Master of the Horse to be regulated.

11.

His Majesty desires that without Injury to any Persons now holding Pensions, a limit may be put to the Pension List, and that in future all Pensions which have hitherto been secret to save fees and Taxes shall be paid at the Exchequer without Fees or other Charges. By which means His Majesty will be enabled to suppress the Office of Paymaster of the Pensions.

12.

That His Majesty will abolish the Office of Master of the Harriers and also that of the Stag Hounds.

13.

That His Majesty will abolish the Establishment of the Mint, together with all places, salaries and fees annexed thereto.

14.

That His Majesty will cause such Vacancies as shall hereafter happen in his Band of Gentlemen Pensioners to be filled up by such Officers as shall have been fifteen years in His Majesty's service, *and that One Year's fine and no more shall be taken for such offices.*

15.

That His Majesty will cause as much as the several Circumstances of the Case will admit the Expenses of his Works and of His Household to be regulated by previous Estimate and subsequent control at His Board of Treasury in order that the Lords Commissioners thereof may be enabled to keep a proper Balance between the several Services, and to provide for them according to their several exigencies.

16.

That His Majesty desires that an invariable order and course of Payments may be established, to prevent confusion and the unperceived Growth of Debt.

17.

That His Majesty is desirous that the regulations may be made as much as possible to prevent Abuses in the Monies granted for Secret and Special Services, that they may not be applied to any other Purposes than those of His Majesty's service.

Enclosure No. 2.

[In the King's handwriting, with many corrections. The numbers refer to enclosure No. 1]

1.

Agreed to with the omission of the words underlined.

2.

Agreed to with the omission of the words underlined, but sufficient Clerks out of the Board abolished must be added to

the Privy Council Office to carry on the great increase of business that will fall on that Board, for which at present there cannot be sufficient hands.

3.

Agreed to.

4.

Agreed to, but some of the Board must continue as a check on the Comptroller and a sufficient number of the Inferior Offices to conduct the business with propriety. A Comptroller of the Gardens, bred a Gardener, will be an useful Officer in a branch the Comptroller of the Buildings cannot be supposed to understand.

5.

Agreed to.

6.

Agreed to.

7.

Agreed to.

N.B. The greatest savings that can be made in the Household as to the number of useless places is in the Department of the Chamberlain, where no reform has as yet been made. One very natural one is the reduction of the forty Messengers and attaching 12 Messengers out of that number to each of the two Secretary of States Offices—that is 24 Messengers will in future do the duty and be subservient to their proper chiefs, not the Chamberlain.

8.

Agreed to, but the Ld Steward must have Imprest money for discharging many necessary small bills that cannot in their nature be delayed till the quarterly payments. At the end of each month he must send the amount of the Expenditure and the Vouchers for it, that when the Treasury issue another sum on account, they may be satisfied of the just expenditure of the former. This remark will hold good for the Department under the Master of the Horse.

9.

Agreed to.

10.

Lord Huntingdon, when Master of the Horse, curtailed the expenses of that office; the savings there to be made are but trifling.

11.

Agreed to, but the restriction of Pensions should not be understood to extend to the not providing for those in the Service who by services of 20 or 30 years are disabled from continuing in the service, or have had any accident to disable them, and are not in circumstances to maintain themselves.

Is it not worthy of consideration whether if the Pension List is subject to a precise limitation it may not occasion inconvenience? When once that list is public, it cannot bear even the shadow of being employed for corrupt purposes. It may be proper therefore to add a Clause that it is not meant to prevent the placing on that List those who have served twenty or thirty years and are disabled from further service, or who are from bodily infirmities acquired in the Service unable to continue and not in a Situation to maintain themselves.

12.

Agreed to as the two employments they being entirely nominal, but Ld Essex is in such distressed circumstances that He will be perfectly ruined that he will not be able to subsist without if he does not get [*sic*] a Pension in lieu of this nominal employment. It will be necessary on this reduction to make an addition to the allowance for keeping the Buck Hounds for the sum now allotted is not sufficient to keep that Pack on the good foot it ought, and as every private Person keeps Hounds.

13.

Agreed to, trusting that proper attention will be given that by the arrangement the value of the Coin may not be endangered.

14.

This arrangement can certainly be no saving to the Civil List but an expense, but should it be wished for the sake of pro-

viding for Half pay Officers it would be much better that the Captain should receive no fee on his appointing such for the Band; but that He must have an addition to his Salary or his Employment will be very greatly reduced and not be adequate to its dignity about Court.

15.

I certainly wish, where the Dignity of the Crown, or my own convenience or amusement is not concerned to be as oeconomical as possible, and shall not object to the Treasury being the Judges of the propriety of the Estimates, whilst I am to be the Sole of the necessity of the busıness being done if regards my own amusement or convenience.

16.

Agreed to.

17.

Agreed to, but that can alone be effected by the Person receiving such Secret or Special Service giving assurance that it shall be faithfully applied to the private purposes for which it has been granted; but it is impossible such services can be specified, for intelligence cannot be obtained if the Informer is not certain of not being discovered.

No. 3699—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

29 *April*, 1782

Sir—I spoke to Lord Rockingham last night about the Lord Steward's Staff. I found him full of complaint about Lord Weymouth, the Scotch Judges, want of confidence, and that everything must go through him, as [it] did through Lord North, or where that Precedent is not sufficient, through himself when last in Office, else he could not serve your Majesty, nor answer for your Government. I endeavoured to tranquillize him by stating to him very truly my unconquerable aversion to dealing with Men, the desire I have manifested from the beginning of keeping the present System together, and of gratifying him, and the impossibility of his considering me as an ordinary Secretary

of State, from our having always kept separate lines, as well as from the circumstances attending the formation of the present Ministry. As to the present question, I stated Groom of the Stole as reserved from the beginning to Your Majesty's own appointment, and the Steward's Staff as intended from the first for Lord Carlisle, but that it was now worth considering whether it would not be better to open it to the Duke of Marlborough, if Lord Charles Spencer's Office must necessarily be suppressed. I observed that he was startled with the Duke of Marlborough's name, but returned, as Your Majesty knows his manner, to what he set out with, and that he must settle all with Your Majesty. My present intention is to tell the Duke of Marlborough this Evening, when he is to call here, as I have great facility with him, the pains I have taken to serve his brother, and my wish that the Steward's Staff should be offered to him in the handsomest manner, on account of his own importance as well as of Your Majesty, to whom I know he was always acceptable, but must be particularly so in the present moment, and to state to him confidentially the difficulties I meet with from Lord Rockingham, and the advantages taken of the present state of things. I would afterwards take my chance of settling with Lord Carlisle through Lord and Lady Gower.

But there is another matter of which I must apprize Your Majesty, which I have hitherto forebore to do, thinking it would blow over. Admiral Kepple sounded me some time since about removing Sir Hugh Palliser. I gave it no encouragement. But last night Mr. Fox mentioned it as Indispensible, after what he had said upon his subject in the House of Commons, and it's to be further considered to-morrow at 12, when we meet on the Reform, there being a doubt whether he can be legally removed. Admiral Kepple went away declaring he could not with propriety be mixed in it. It was not necessary for me to say anything last night, as it was mention'd hastily, while we were breaking up, but my intention is to state my real opinion, that I should have had no objection to it at setting out, but that it appears late now, and open to different constructions. I must take that, or some opportunity of stating what I conceive the natural course of business to be, first for the Department to submit any business to Your Majesty, and to be consider'd afterwards by the Cabinet under Your Majesty's Reference.

But I conceive there can be no stand made on this subject, if they are determined, which they undoubtedly are, to push it.

Mr. Fox told me he hoped to prevail on Mr. Sawbridge not to make a motion on Tuesday about Lord North and Mr. Robinson, but I was determined not to deprecate it.

All this I beg leave to assure Your Majesty affects me as much as it can possibly do Your Majesty, both as to *Measures*, *Men*, and *Modes* of both.—But I see nothing which can safely be done till we hear from Paris.

I have the honour to be, with the highest respect Your Majesty's most Dutyfull subject and faithful servant,

SHELBURNE.

29*th April*, 1782. ½ *past* 10 A.M.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3700—*The King to Lord Shelburne.*

QUEEN'S HOUSE, *April* 29*th*, 1782
m. past A.M. [*sic*]

It is impossible to be more pleased than I am with the confidence Ld Shelburne reposes in me by the very open letter he has wrote to Me, the conduct he has held towards the D. of Marlborough and Ld Carlisle as to the Steward's Staff does him honour; I am not surprised at the ill humour it met with, knowing the disposition He has to deal with. Lord North never presumed to meddle in the Appointment of the Lords of Session, but was indulged as to the Barons of the Exchequer, this jurisdiction being in Revenue Causes, and I fear those recommendations were not always very excellent. Lord Shelburne's proposed language to the Duke of Marlborough is highly proper and will at last keep Him right. The conduct towards Palliser is certainly mean and considering the good fortune that has attended Keppel will, if it is *legal*, soon be thought *severe*, but though saying that I do not mean to break with the Phalanx for such a business. Certainly it is quite new for business to be laid before the Cabinet and consequently advice offered by the Ministers to the Crown unasked; the Minister of the Department used always to ask the permission of the King to lay such a

point before the Cabinet, as he cldnt chuse to venture to take the direction of Crown upon without such sanction; then the Advice came with propriety.

I am sorry there is any thought of bringing before the House of Commons the provision I have thought right to make for Lord North and Mr. Robinson; but I have even yet too good an opinion of the justice of the House of Commons to suppose they will commence so improper a Motion. I trust the news from Paris may be such as will at least put things at home on a more creditable foot.

Draft, with many corrections, endorsed by the King.

No. 3701—*Lord Rockingham to the King.*

GROSVENOR SQUARE, *Monday night*
April 29, 1782. 12 *o'clock*

Lord Rockingham humbly acquaints Your Majesty, that in consequence of Your Majesty's directions, Lord Rockingham had seen Lord Weymouth this morning, and that Lord Weymouth most gratefully accepts Your Majesty's gracious intentions towards him.

Lord Rockingham is also to inform Your Majesty that Lord Chewton and his father, Lord Waldegrave, most thankfully receive Your Majesty's intentions of conferring on Lord Chewton the office of Vice-Chamberlain.

Lord Carlisle having wrote to Lord Rockingham yesterday morning, offering to call, and to give every information he was able in regard to the state and situation of Your Majesty's affairs in Ireland, Lord Rockingham has had the honour of seeing him this morning, and had the satisfaction to find that Lord Carlisle's dispositions and intentions were to give the best assistance he could, and in every respect seemed inclined to act with Candour and Propriety.

Lord Rockingham, in consequence of this apparent disposition, ventured to suggest that as a great Office of State was now vacant, an opportunity might offer for Your Majesty's grace and favour towards His Lordship.

Lord Rockingham expects that he shall be able to state

Lord Carlisle's inclinations and disposition more fully to Your Majesty when he has the honour of attending Your Majesty on Wednesday.

Lord Rockingham has also seen Lord Essex, who is much concerned at the expected loss which he will sustain by the Reform, and whose circumstances Your Majesty being apprized of, has already expressed your gracious intentions of relieving. If Your Majesty should think Lord Essex a proper person to succeed to the honour of being a Lord of the Bedchamber, it would be a most acceptable honour conferred on Lord Essex.

The state of the proposed Alterations and Reforms in the Offices of the Exchequer will be ready to be laid before Your Majesty on Wednesday.

The papers received from Your Majesty on Sunday will be laid by Lord Rockingham before the Cabinet to-morrow.

No. 3702—*The King to Lord Rockingham.*

WINDSOR, *April 30th*, 1782
m. 30 *past* 7 A.M.

I have just received the Marquis of Rockingham's account of his having seen Lord Weymouth and Lord Chewton. I desire he will also appoint the latter to attend to-morrow at St. James's that after the Levee I may, as usual, in my Closet confer on him the Key of Vice Chamberlain.

I am glad to find Lord Carlisle is in so happy a state of temper, but that has been a quality for which he has ever been famous. I shall be glad to-morrow to hear more on the Subject from Lord Rockingham : indeed the Report Lord Shelburne gave me on Sunday of the interview He had had with Lord Carlisle promised everything that could reasonably be expected from Him.

Lord Rockingham may acquaint Lord Essex that as soon as the new Groom of the Stole is in Office, he will have my directions to notify to him his appointment to the Vacancy in my Bedchamber. G. R.

Draft, endorsed by the King.

No. 3703—*Mr. Fox to the King.*

Mr. Fox has the honour of sending to Your Majesty the Resolutions [*wanting*] moved yesterday by the Lord Advocate of Scotland which were agreed to in the Committee and afterwards by the House upon the report. The Lord Advocate then moved for leave to bring in a Bill of Pains and Penalties against Sir Thomas Rumbold and Messieurs Whitehill and Perring, and brought it in immediately. He also brought in another Bill to prevent the Persons aimed at from quitting the country or transferring their property for the term of one year. Much of the day was spent in conversation upon the proper mode of proceeding, and it was at last generally understood that the proper stage for Sir Thomas Rumbold to make his defence would be the second reading of the Bill. The principal Speakers were the Speaker, who suggested this mode of proceeding from the Chair, the Lord Advocate, Mr. Jenkinson, Mr. Fox, Sir Thomas Rumbold, and Mr. Rigby, who was the only person who seemed inclined to defend the Persons accused. Mr. Fox would have sent Your Majesty this account by the Messenger who went to Windsor this morning, if he had been able to procure by that time a copy of the Resolutions. Mr. Sawbridge on this day made a motion of censure upon the Pension granted to Mr. Robinson, and was seconded by Mr. Filmer Honeywood. Mr. Thomas Pitt moved the previous question upon the ground of the business not being important enough to merit the attention of Parliament, and was supported in this by Mr. Fox, the Lord Advocate, Mr. William Pitt and others. It was carried without a division. The Lord Advocate spoke very earnestly against any enquiries that might lead to produce heats in the House and destroy the unanimity which now seemed to prevail; Mr. William Pitt in one of the most eloquent speeches that ever was made suggested nearly the same idea and said that it was better to provide that future Ministers should not have it in their power to do wrong than to enquire into the errors of the past. This conversation was in a great measure drawn on by Mr. Fox's declaring that an enquiry into the state of the nation and the calamitous situation in which Your Majesty's present servants had found the country was necessary in order to justify those measures which they might be obliged to propose to Parliament.

Mr. Thomas Pitt moved a Committee to examine the state of the debt and finances, which is to be balloted for to-morrow.

St. James's. 11 *o'clock* P.M. 30 *April*, 1782

Endorsed by the King.

ADDENDA

No. 3274A—*The King to Lord North.*

Printed. Donne II. 362.

Lord North—Mr Robinson as You was engaged sent Me the list of the Speakers last Night and the very good Majority. I have this Morning sent him £6,000. to be placed to the Same purpose as the Sum transmitted on the 21st of August.

Queen's House,
March 6th 1781.
$\frac{m}{48}$ p^t. 8 P.M.

No. 3437A—*Lord Stormont to the King.*

St. James's,
Octr. 30, 1781.

As there is nothing so pleasing to foreign Ministers in trying situations as to receive Your Majesty's approbation of their conduct, I have been liberal in commendation of Sir James Harris, it appearing to me that he has acted with uncommon spirit and ability in a very hazardous moment indeed. I may perhaps overthink the subject, but it strikes me that Count Panin meant to throw a die for the whole, and that if the Great Duke's journey had been put off to a long day, a Revolution would have been attempted. Such a Revolution would have rivetted the King of Prussia's influence at Petersburgh and made him in fact Sovereign of the Empire of Russia.

No. 3569A—*Lord Cornwallis to the King.*

LONDON,
March 19th, 1782.

SIR,—As I have the presumption to believe that Your Majesty has confidence in my professions of aversion to faction, and of unalterable attachment to your Person, and zeal for Your service; I venture, without apprehending any unfavourable construction, to request that Your Majesty will dispose of the Office of Constable of the Tower, either now or on any future occasion, if it can contribute to the convenience of your arrangements.

My unwearied endeavours to serve Your Majesty and My country may perhaps induce Your Majesty, with your usual kindness to me, to consider favourably my pretensions in the line of my profession, when a proper opportunity offers; which I should prefer, as depending more immediately on Your Majesty, to holding an office which is generally looked upon as a civil employment.

I am, Your Majesty's most Faithful subject and Devoted Servant, CORNWALLIS.

Endorsed by the King.

No. 3615A—*Lord Shelburne to the King.*

30th March, 1782.

Lord Shelburne presumes to acquaint Your Majesty that he has communicated the Letter inclosed from Mr. Hatsell to the Lord Chancellor, who entirely agrees with Mr. Hatsell, that the Parliament are to meet upon the Return of the Writs without any more notice, and that if Notice be necessary, nothing less than a Proclamation would be sufficient. The Chancellor has ordered a Commission to be prepared in consequence of Your Majesty's orders, and an Article is proposed to be inserted in the Gazette conformable to that of 1754. It is presumed that Your Majesty would have His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester's Name stand first in the present Commission, as the Duke of Cumberland's did in that of 1754.

Saturday 20 M. *past* 10 A.M.

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